



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Jason Komes, Senior Environmental Specialist
Judy Schmidt, Legal

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 093, 2022, Making Supplemental Appropriations in the General Fund for the Environmental Services Air Quality Program from the US Environmental Protection Agency Grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to appropriate unanticipated grant revenue in the General Fund for the Environmental Services Air Quality Program. This grant directly supports Council Priority #17, Improved Air Quality, and includes \$108,200 of grant funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and associated with the American Rescue Plan Act to support local monitoring of National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) pollutants in and near communities with environmental justice concerns who face disproportionate exposure to these pollutants and health risks and are also associated with increased vulnerability to COVID-19.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City has been awarded a grant from the EPA for the purchase of new air quality monitoring equipment to be located in a new criteria pollutant monitoring site to supplement the two existing regulatory ozone monitors. Currently, we do not have an oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) monitor and a downtown ozone monitor is believed to underestimate ozone concentrations due to proximity to roadways and NO_x titration. A 2017 evaluation of the regulatory network conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) recommended regulatory ozone monitoring on the eastern side of town to ensure that population exposure is not underestimated.

These funds will be used to purchase new air quality monitoring equipment to be installed in a new criteria pollutant monitoring site, which includes a shelter, a meteorological tower and ozone, NO_x, and meteorological sensors. This information will provide better regional information, including information for Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, regarding ozone exposure.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

City resources in the General Fund would increase by \$108,200. No match is required; however, installation of the new criteria pollutant monitoring site will be funded by appropriated funds made available under the 2022 enhancements to the City's Air Quality monitoring budget (BFO Offer 48.15).

PUBLIC OUTREACH

While no formal outreach has been conducted prior to receipt of these funds, monitored data will be used to support community awareness of air quality issues.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. U.S. EPA Cooperative Agreement and Notice of Award, July 12, 2022