



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Jason Komes, Senior Environmental Specialist
Judy Schmidt, Legal

SUBJECT

Second 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

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on August 16, 2022, appropriates 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 (ARPA) 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.

The Ordinance has been revised to include a reference to the City Manager's authority to approve/sign an intergovernmental agreement with the EPA for the funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City has been awarded a grant from the EPA ("Grant") in the amount of \$108,200 for the purchase of new air quality monitoring equipment (ozone and NO_x analyzers) and related supplies (including calibration equipment, meteorological tower and sensors) (collectively, "New Equipment"). The Grant requires the City to procure the New Equipment in accordance with the terms of the grant and the ARPA, and funds that purchase at 100% (no local matching funds required).

Although not specified by the Grant, the City plans to install the New Equipment in a new criteria pollutant monitoring site ("New Site") to supplement the two existing regulatory ozone monitors already in the City. The New Site will be constructed by the City, utilizing funds already appropriated for the Air Quality Monitoring Program. Construction will include a shelter, data connections and installation of the New Equipment.

Currently, the City does 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. The location of the New Site has not yet been determined but will likely be on the eastern side of the City. Staff intends to work with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Air Pollution Control Division (the “State”) to create an agreement under which the State will operate, maintain, and collect the data produced by the New Site, as they do for other such sites in the City and County. The Grant is an Intergovernmental Agreement that may be approved by the City Manager under City Code Section 1-22. Any future IGA with the State will be approved as required under City Code Section 1-22.

The New Site 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, construction of the New Site will be funded by an appropriation 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