



San Antonio Independent School District

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Superintendent

September 21, 2018

TCEQ

P.O. Box 13087

Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) regarding your current allocation of the VW Mitigation Plan funds. We strongly support the current allocation prioritizing the San Antonio region, as we continue to have great needs to modernize our bus fleet in SAISD and across local government entities in Bexar County.

Currently, SAISD has 28 route buses that are 15 years or older that would qualify to be replaced under this initiative. As the cost of each new bus averages around \$100,000, our need currently outstrips the funding this initiative would provide. Ideally, we would love to see the \$500,000 cap removed, but understand there is significant need in Bexar County. However, this proposed funding provides the district with a potential for strong continuation of our fleet modernization that has been supported by the EPA and yourself at TCEQ in the past.

Moving forward, we would love to see the grant awards prioritized primarily by age of the bus and mileage. In addition to our daily route buses, some of the oldest buses in our fleet are our athletic buses. On average, these 47 buses are 22 years old (43 of them have been in use for at least 15 years), and they are ineligible to receive funding under this grant program. We would appreciate expanding the eligibility for replacing these vehicles, as they currently emit more pollution than any other vehicles in our fleet.

In conclusion, we strongly support the current allocation of funds, and we wish to ensure that they can be used to their full potential to improve air quality here in San Antonio.

Sincerely,

Pedro Martinez

Superintendent of Schools