



NELSON W. WOLFF
JUDGE
COUNTY OF BEXAR
TEXAS



RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TEXAS

October 5, 2018

Chairman Jon Niermann
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Implementation Grants Section, MC-204
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Re: Comments pertaining to the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Texas

Dear Chairman Niermann,

We wish to express our gratitude and strong support for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Texas under the Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust. Bexar County has a documented history of improving air quality. Nevertheless, the EPA designated Bexar County as out of attainment with the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. **Resources from the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund will have a greater impact in Bexar County than in other Texas counties due to this marginal nonattainment designation.** Thank you for your recognition of this fact.

This year we convened a community-wide initiative called ConnectSA that will reduce congestion on our roadways, which will ultimately reduce NOx emissions and minimize pollutant exposure to residents. **The goals of ConnectSA are completely aligned with the goals outlined in the Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.**

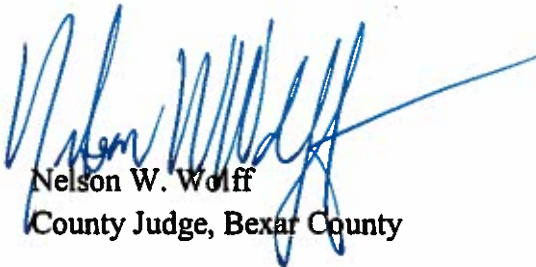
ConnectSA was created to ensure transportation and transit challenges are addressed by transforming our current fixed-route transit system into a truly multi-modal system that integrates demand-driven bus, van and car routes and partnerships with rideshare companies, traditional taxis, and newer innovations such as scooters and driverless cars.

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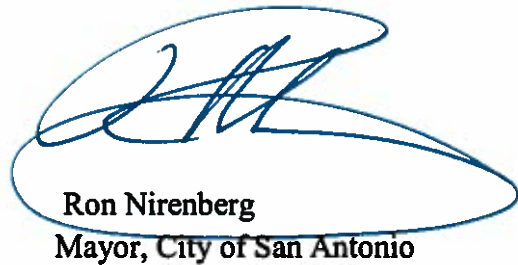
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Any resources provided by the Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust to help ConnectSA achieve our shared objectives will be complemented and multiplied many times over by investments by the Texas Department of Transportation, the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Bexar County, and the City of San Antonio. We hope that the final plan will prioritize ConnectSA activities as eligible mitigation actions, including transit fleet replacement.

Sincerely,



Nelson W. Wolff
County Judge, Bexar County



Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, City of San Antonio