



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Diego M. Bernal

State Representative, District 123

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Implementation Grants Section, MC-204
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
ATTN: VW Settlement

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

October 5, 2018

Dear Commissioner Niermann,

I am writing to express my appreciation and support for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Texas under the Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust. The plan sets out a clear framework which will reduce pollution in a strategic and meaningful way and that will result in better public health for millions of Texans while also safeguarding our economic growth.

Bexar County is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and it was recently designated in marginal nonattainment of the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It is in a unique position to utilize the VW funds to move the needle on air quality to meet the federal standards. Local stakeholders in the government and public sector are ready to act on the eligible actions established by the national settlement and the proposed mitigation plan for Texas, including school bus replacement, airport ground service equipment electrification, zero emission vehicle infrastructure and medium and heavy-duty vehicle replacement.

As the lead environmental agency for the state, TCEQ is in the best position to determine how to best utilize mitigation trust funding to reach our air, energy, and climate goals as allowed by the VW settlement. Thank you for your foresight and for taking the role as lead agency for the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diego Bernal", written over a horizontal line.

Diego Bernal
District 123, State Representative
Texas House of Representatives