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 8, 2018

Dear Commissioner Niermann,

I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on the state’s Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) under the Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust. Our region has a successful track record of working together towards maintaining healthy air and the proposed allocation of $73.5 million to the region will allow us to continue making improvements to our air quality.

Until recently, San Antonio was the largest city in the country still in attainment of the federal air quality standard for ozone. This feat was only possible through a regional effort and the cooperation of all the local stakeholders, including the business community, CPS Energy, VIA Metropolitan Transit, and many others. Thank you for recognizing the urgency faced by our community and the unique opportunity that exists in San Antonio to reach attainment of the federal standards in only a few years.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments conducted a study in 2017 to estimate the potential cost of nonattainment for the San Antonio region. The economic loss estimated by the study is between $3.2 billion and $27.5 billion. These estimates are likely to rise if San Antonio cannot improve its air quality before the two year deadline imposed by the EPA, making it all the more important that everything possible be done to reach attainment.
I fully support the allocation to the San Antonio area in the draft BMP. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Rodrigue
State Representative
District 125