

APPENDIX C

MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECAST DISCUSSIONS

EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATION FOR 2022 PM_{2.5}
EXCEEDANCES AT ATASCOSA, HIDALGO, NUECES, TARRANT,
AND WEBB COUNTY

August 5, 2025

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. BOX 13087
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-3087

APPENDIX C: MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECAST DISCUSSIONS

C.1: GROUP 1 – MAY 5, 2022

Table C-1: TCEQ Forecast discussions for May 5, 2022

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
5/5/2022	World Trade Bridge	Patchy smoke from ongoing agricultural burnings in Mexico and Central America is forecast to continue at varying intensities across much of the eastern two-thirds of the state while having expanded over portions of the Big Bend region, with the heaviest concentrations expected to be across South Texas. Daily PM _{2.5} AQI is forecast to possibly reach moderate range in Laredo areas.

C.2: GROUP 2 – MAY 8 AND MAY 9, 2022

Table C-2: TCEQ Forecast discussions for May 8 and May 9, 2022

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
5/8/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16 and World Trade Bridge	Depending on the amount of ongoing agricultural burnings in Mexico and Central America, residual smoke may continue to linger and filter across Deep South Texas, along the coastal bend of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, as well as into the Big Bend region, in addition to South Central and Southeast Texas at varying intensities. Depending on the coverage and intensity of the smoke, the overall daily PM _{2.5} AQI may reach the middle of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Brownsville-McAllen and Laredo areas; the lower to middle end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Austin, Corpus Christi, Houston, San Antonio, and Victoria areas; and the upper end of the "Good" range (perhaps with an isolated low "Moderate" or two) in parts of the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Big Bend, and Houston areas.
5/9/2022	Haws Athletic Center and World Trade Bridge	Southerly winds could continue to transport light to moderate amounts of smoke from the agricultural burnings in Mexico and Central America into the southern portions of the state as well as the Big Bend region and into South Central and Southeast Texas. Depending on the amount of agricultural burnings and associated coverage/density of the smoke, the daily PM _{2.5} AQI may reach the lower to middle end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Brownsville-McAllen, Corpus Christi, and Laredo areas; the lower end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Austin, Houston, San Antonio, and Victoria areas; and the upper end of the "Good" range (perhaps with an isolated low "Moderate" or two) in parts of the Big Bend area.

C.3: GROUP 3 – MAY 20 AND MAY 21, 2022

Table C-3: TCEQ Forecast discussions for May 20 and May 21, 2022

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
5/20/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, Haws Athletic Center, and World Trade Bridge	Lingering amounts of residual smoke from the seasonal burning activities across the Southeastern U.S. (including in eastern Texas) filtering and lingering over East and Southeast Texas; and moderate to heavy residual smoke from the agricultural burnings in Mexico and Central America filtering over South Texas, South Central Texas, along the coastal bend of Texas as well as the Rio Grande Valley, and expanding over Southeast and North Central Texas is forecast to keep and raise PM _{2.5} levels a bit across the majority of the state.
5/21/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, and World Trade Bridge	Fine particulate matter will likely continue across much of the state from a combination of lingering smoke from the wildfire activity in New Mexico over portions of the Texas Panhandle; lingering amounts of residual smoke from the seasonal burning activities across the Southeastern U.S. (including in eastern Texas) filtering and lingering over East and Southeast Texas; and elevated residual smoke from the agricultural burnings in Mexico and Central America filtering over the eastern two-thirds of the state, with the heaviest amounts persisting along the coast and extending through the center of the state from South Texas, through South Central Texas, and into portions of Southeast and North Central Texas. Additionally, light amounts of Saharan dust associated with an incoming dust plume could begin to reach Southeast Texas as well as along the coastal bend of Texas later on in the day. Short term fine particulate PM _{2.5} levels could spike to the lower end of the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range at times in parts of the Austin, Brownsville-McAllen, Corpus Christi, Laredo, San Antonio, and Victoria areas. Overall, depending on the movement and intensity of the dust, the coverage and intensity of the smoke, in addition to the timing of the movement of the aforementioned cold front with associated precipitation across portions of South Central and North Central Texas, the daily PM _{2.5} AQI is forecast to reach the upper end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Austin, Brownsville-McAllen, Corpus Christi, Laredo, San Antonio, and Victoria areas; the middle to upper end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Bryan-College Station, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Tyler-Longview, and Waco-Killeen areas; the lower end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the Amarillo, Lubbock, and Midland-Odessa areas; and the upper end of the "Good" range (perhaps with an isolated low "Moderate" or two) in parts of the Big Bend and El Paso areas.

C.4: GROUP 4 – JUNE 12 THROUGH JUNE 17, 2022**Table C-4: TCEQ Forecast discussions for June 12-17, 2022**

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
6/12/2022	Edinburg East Freddy and Dona Park	Depending on the amount of seasonal burning activity across the Southeastern U.S. (including in eastern Texas) light amounts of residual smoke may continue filtering and lingering over portions of Southeast, East, and North Central Texas in addition to slightly elevated urban fine particulate levels over these same regions of Texas as well as portions of South Central Texas. Additionally, the light to moderate density African dust plume is expected to continue to build as it spreads northward and westward, with at least light patches extending to cover portions of the state at varying intensities generally along and south of a line from Carrizo Springs to Waco to San Augustine. Light to moderate amounts of residual smoke from the seasonal fire activity as well as industrial activities along western, eastern, and southern portions of Mexico mixed with aerosols from gas flaring activity in the Bay of Campeche along with light to moderate amounts of African dust are forecast to continue filtering across portions of South Texas, the coastal bend of Texas while expanding into portions of Southeast and South Central Texas.
6/13/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, Edinburg East Freddy, Haws Athletic Center, and World Trade Bridge	Heavy amounts of African dust will continue surging into and through the state from south to north, impacting most parts of the state with the exception of Far West Texas and the Panhandle. The heaviest concentrations are expected to be in South Texas, along the coast, and over portions of South Central as well as Southeast Texas. More urban portions of the state such as parts of North Central, South Central, and Southeast Texas with slightly elevated fine urban particulates mixed with the Saharan dust will see elevated PM _{2.5} levels as well.
6/14/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, and Haws Athletic Center	The dense African dust plume is forecast to continue filtering and expanding over the majority of the state with at least light patches reaching most areas with the exception of Far West Texas. The heaviest concentrations are forecast to be over Deep South Texas, Southeast Texas, and along the coastal bend of Texas. Additionally, fine particulate levels over more urban portions of the state will contribute to the elevated PM _{2.5} levels in addition to the African dust.
6/15/2022	Edinburg East Freddy	Moderate to heavy density African dust will continue across much of the state with the exception of Far West Texas and the heaviest concentrations forecast to be over Deep South Texas, Southeast Texas, and along the coastal bend of Texas.
6/16/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, Donna Park, Edinburg East Freddy, Haws Athletic Center, and World Trade Bridge	The moderate density plume of Saharan dust will continue spreading inland through Texas, possibly impacting spots at varying intensities generally along and south of a line from Del Rio to Waco to Beaumont, with the highest concentrations remaining along the lower Texas coast.

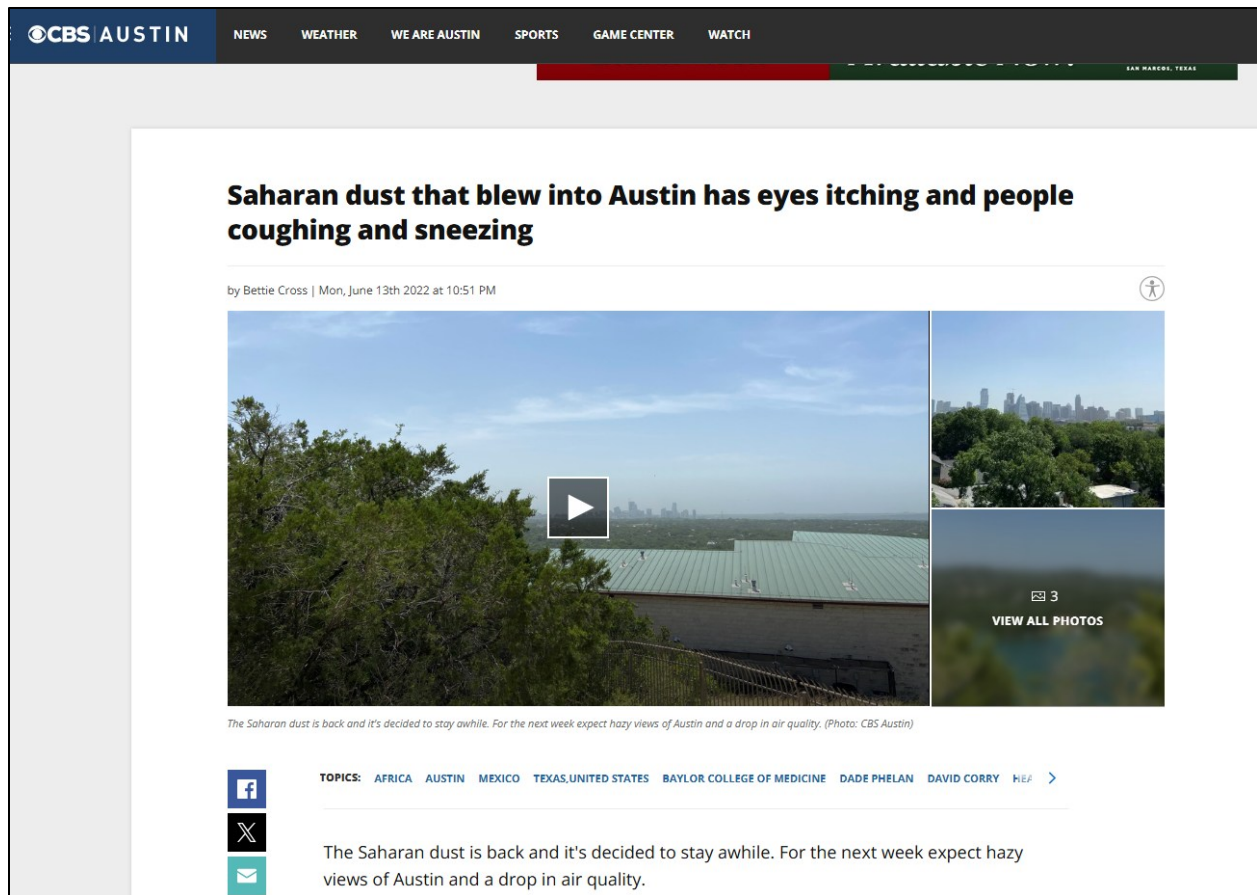


Figure C-2: CBS Austin News Report with Picture of Hazy Sky Over Austin Area due to Saharan Dust, Reported on June 12, 2022

The long, strange trip that brings Saharan dust to Texas

KERA | By [Mose Buchele](#)

Published June 13, 2022 at 4:00 PM CDT



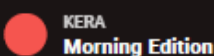
Gabriel C. Pérez / KUT

The sunset over Canyon Lake in the Texas Hill Country is colored orange on June 25, 2020, in part because of a Saharan dust cloud.

Dust blown all the way from Africa's Sahara Desert is arriving this week in Texas, which happens every year around this time.

Around 6,000 years ago, North Africa was covered in huge lakes that were home to microscopic creatures. The dust that now blows over from Africa and visits us every summer is made up of the remains of those ancient lake-dwellers. It's mind-boggling.

But it poses more immediate concerns for asthma sufferers and people with respiratory conditions. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality says the dust is partly to blame for moderate air quality this week in many parts of the state, including Austin.



If you are sensitive to particle pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency advises you consider reducing outdoor activities. On the flip side, the annual dust clouds can make for some pretty sunsets and help fertilize the Amazon Rainforest.

Figure C-3: KERA News Channel Reporting about Saharan dust in Texas, Reported on June 13, 2022.



Figure C-4: The New York Times Report Forecasting about Saharan Dust in Texas, Reported on June 14, 2022



Figure C-5: Local News Reporter Reporting on Saharan Dust in Texas, Reported on June 15, 2022

C.5: GROUP 5 - JULY 16 THROUGH JULY 18, 2022**Table C-5: TCEQ Forecast discussions for July 16-18, 2022**

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
7/16/2022	Edinburg East Freddy, and World Trade Bridge	The moderate density plume of Saharan dust will continue spreading inland through Texas, possibly impacting spots at varying intensities generally along and south of a line from Del Rio to Waco to Beaumont, with the highest concentrations remaining along the lower Texas coast.
7/17/2022	Von Ormy Highway 16, Edinburg East Freddy, Haws Athletic Center, and World Trade Bridge	The Saharan dust is expected to continue to build as it spreads from south to north, possibly impacting most parts of the state with the exception of Far West Texas and the upper Texas Panhandle.
7/18/2022	Haws Athletic Center	Light to moderate amounts of Saharan dust will persist in at least light patches across most of the state, with the highest concentrations across South Central and North Central Texas as most of the dust continues to move north and east.

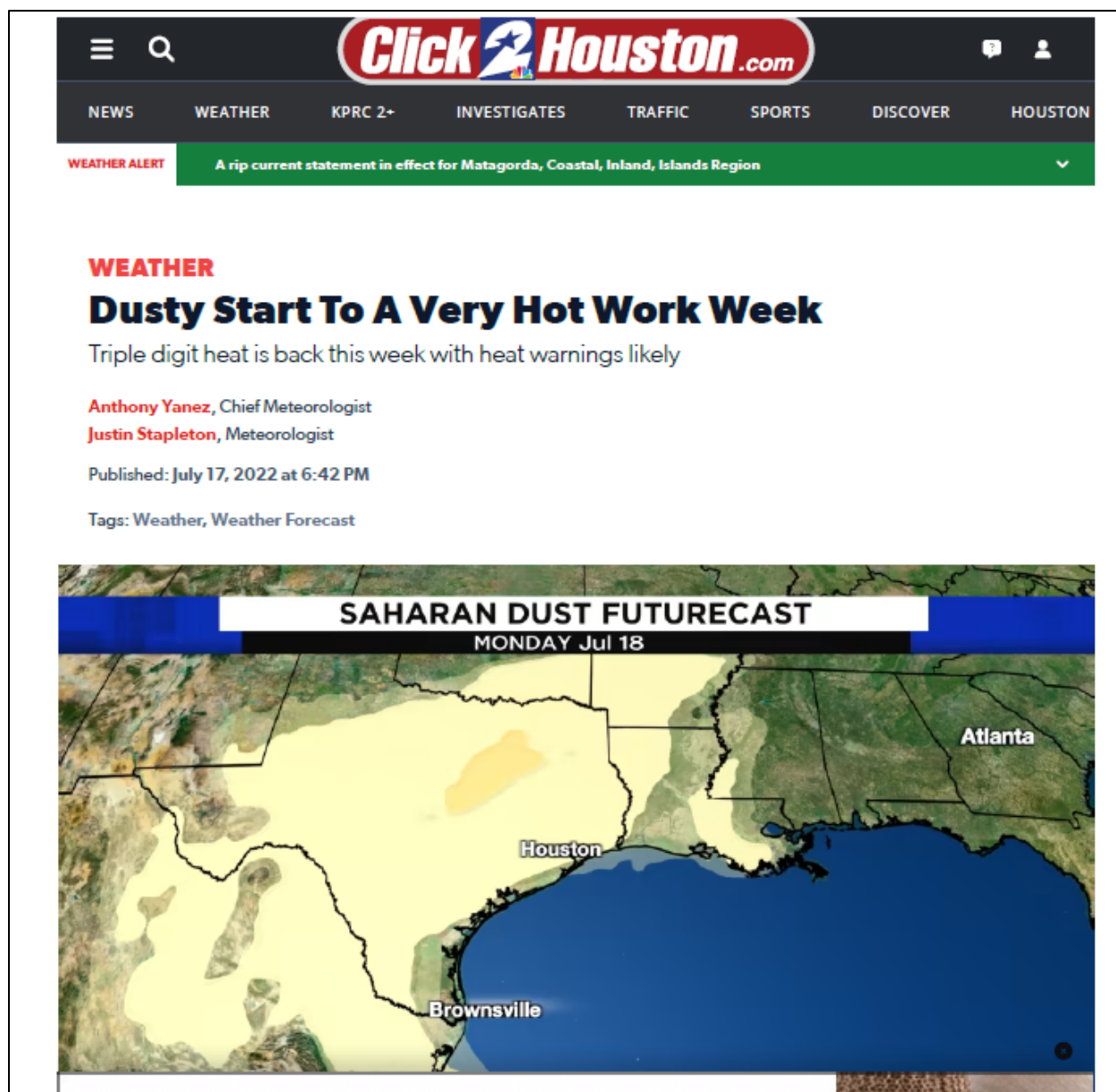


Figure C-6: Click2Houston News Reporting about Saharan Dust in Texas, Reported on July 17, 2022.



Figure C-7: CBS Austin News Reporting about Saharan Dust in Texas, Reported on July 17, 2022

C.6: GROUP 6 – OCTOBER 3, 2022

Table C-6: TCEQ Forecast discussions for October 3, 2022

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
10/3/2022	Haws Athletic Center	Slightly increased urban fine particulate background levels associated with light winds over the eastern two-thirds of the state (including very light amounts of residual smoke from seasonal burning activity across the Southeast U.S. filtering into east Texas as well as isolated spots of seasonal fires in East Texas), the coverage and density of the smoke and could possibly raise the daily $PM_{2.5}$ AQI to the lower end of the "Moderate" range for parts of the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston areas and to the upper end of the "Good" range (perhaps with an isolated low "Moderate" or two) in parts of the Austin, Bryan-College Station, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Tyler-Longview, Victoria, and Waco-Killeen areas. The daily PM_{10} AQI could reach the upper end of the "Good" range (perhaps with an isolated low "Moderate" or two) in parts of the Houston area as well.