

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Corpus Christi Airshed Monitoring Project
SEP No. 2011-32

Project Description

This Project involves upgrading air monitoring equipment and continued monitoring of air quality in the Corpus Christi urban airshed. Third-Party Administrator operates six air monitoring sites in this area:

Nueces County - CAMS 660 (Holly Road) and CAMS 664 (Violet)

San Patricio County - CAMS 659 (Aransas Pass), CAMS 685 (Ingleside), CAMS 686 (Odem-SEP), and CAMS 687 (Taft-SEP)

The locations of these sites are shown in the map in Exhibit 3. The monitoring stations consist of ambient air quality monitoring instruments, meteorological instruments, and ancillary equipment. The primary objective of these monitoring stations is to provide continuous information on air quality, which includes generating data on background concentrations, pollutant transport from outside the air-shed, and pollutant transport from the industrial district during the periods of predominant southeast to northwest wind patterns.

Third-Party Administrator shall use SEP Funds to upgrade monitoring equipment with new, more efficient sensors. Ozone analyzers and meteorological sensors will be replaced with new, high-sensitivity and robust sensors for better assessment of ozone concentrations, simultaneous weather parameters, and other parameters. Third-Party Administrator shall also use SEP Funds to continue monitoring activity at the monitoring sites, including monthly operational expenses at the monitoring sites, necessary repairs, supplies, and a portion of travel and personnel salaries associated with implementing this Project. Continuous measurement of ozone and meteorological parameters including wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, and outdoor temperature will be conducted at each site. Additional monitoring parameters may be added or removed from these sites as approved by TCEQ. Third-Party Administrator must generate and maintain a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) adhering to the principles of *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans*, EPA QA/R-5.

Third-Party Administrator shall provide data obtained from the monitors directly to the TCEQ Leading Environmental Analysis and Display System (LEADS) using wireless modems. Third-Party Administrator shall make the data available to the public via the TCEQ website as soon as possible upon availability. The data displayed on the TCEQ website will be subject to change pending final validation by Third-Party Administrator. Third-Party Administrator shall provide to the TCEQ contact information for a person able to answer questions (during normal business hours) regarding data quality from the measurements obtained from Third-Party Administrator's air quality monitoring sites.

Environmental Benefit

Health impacts from emissions in and around the highly industrialized area of Corpus Christi are of potential concern. This Project will provide air quality data that may be used to investigate and remediate this air quality concern. This Project will continue generating air quality data, which will be made available to the public through the TCEQ LEADS system. Data from this monitoring network may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of current emission control strategies, track ambient concentration trends for key pollutants of interest, evaluate episodic emission events, conduct source attribution studies, and assess potential community exposure to air contaminants.

Eligible Areas and Counties

This project may receive contributions from the following:

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Calhoun, DeWitt, Duval, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria Counties

Minimum Contribution Amount

\$300

Total Project Budget

\$39,380