

Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi

AutoCheck

SEP No. 2011-34 – as Amended on 5/6/2019

Project Description

This Project involves testing vehicle exhaust emissions, including hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. The AutoCheck protocol consists of pollution screening done with direct tailpipe gas analysis (hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides), gas cap pressure testing, and Standardized Onboard Diagnostic (OBD-II) computer code reading. Utilizing a cargo van, the sole use of which is to transport screening equipment and generator, AutoCheck screens vehicles at public events and work sites. Motorists voluntarily have their vehicles tested and receive information about their emissions and the clean air benefits of well-maintained vehicles.

When a vehicle is found to have high exhaust emissions, a bad gas cap, or OBD-II Diagnostic Trouble Code(s) (DTC's), the vehicle operator is given a voucher for a vehicle checkup and repair at one of Third-Party Administrator's approved certified automotive repair shops. The vehicle operator may choose to use an approved automotive repair shop from a list maintained by Third-Party Administrator.

Mechanics at the shop check the vehicle to determine the problem causing high emissions or DTC. The shop will repair the vehicle and document the reduction in emissions by pre- and post-repair emissions tests and/or the corrected OBD-II DTC. These services will be performed at no charge to the vehicle operator. The shop will be reimbursed with SEP Funds for the services for up to \$600 per vehicle.

Third-Party Administrator shall organize at least one vehicle emission testing event each month. Third-Party Administrator shall create and maintain a list of automotive repair shops based on factors such as location, number of service bays, number and type of certified technicians, years in service, diagnostic rate per hour, repair rate per hour, ability to perform emissions testing and equipment used, and average duration of time for emissions-related repairs. Third-Party Administrator shall not use SEP Funds for emissions testing of fleet vehicles.

Third-Party Administrator shall use SEP Funds to pay the salary of a Program Operator whose position is devoted to the AutoCheck program. Third-Party Administrator shall not use SEP Funds to pay for any fringe benefits for the Program Operator beyond any benefits that are legally required. Third-Party Administrator shall also use SEP Funds for maintenance, repair, and calibration of the AutoCheck equipment by a contractor, for replacement of equipment if necessary, for fuel to transport the equipment to event sites and for generator necessary to operate the equipment during events, and for printer ink and card stock to print emissions test results to provide to participating vehicle operators.

Third-Party Administrator shall use SEP Funds to purchase a cargo van that is model year 2010 or newer ("Replacement Cargo Van") to replace the current cargo van that is model year 2004 ("Older Cargo Van"), thus removing the Older Cargo

Van from the roads. Third-Party Administrator shall ensure that the Replacement Cargo Van has an engine that meets 2010 EPA Standards. Third-Party Administrator certifies that the Older Cargo Van is currently in use and has been regularly driven to perform vehicle screenings at public events and work sites.

Third-Party Administrator shall own and operate the Replacement Cargo Van for at least five years following the date of purchase, and it shall be used exclusively to transport screening equipment and generator to perform vehicle screenings at public events and work sites.

The Older Cargo Van shall either be sold or fully decommissioned. All funds received from either the sale or from the scrap value of the Older Cargo Van shall be deposited into the SEP Account, become part of the SEP Funds, and be reported on the SEP Quarterly Report as a deposit (complete Exhibit 4 if sold or Exhibit 5 if decommissioned).

Environmental Benefit

According to local emissions inventories of the Corpus Christi area, approximately 35% of air pollution is caused by vehicles. The vehicle operator may not know that the vehicle is polluting or may not have the resources to have emissions-reducing repairs performed on the vehicle. This Project addresses emissions by informing vehicle operators that their vehicles are polluting, providing them with information regarding the clean air benefits of a well-maintained vehicle, and providing resources to repair polluting vehicles to bring them up to clean emissions standards.

Eligible Areas and Counties

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

\$116,480