

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services
AGENDA DATE: September 26, 2006
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., (915) 621-6719
DISTRICT (S) AFFECTED: ALL Districts

SUBJECT:

Approve a resolution to support the TCEQ/NEAP approach on uncontrolled natural events on particulate matter.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has developed a Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) to help address particulate matter (PM) exceedances caused by uncontrollable natural events in El Paso such as high winds. Requesting approval to submit letter to TCEQ supporting this endeavor

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*******REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*******

LEGAL: (if required) Josette Flores

FINANCE: (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

'06 SEP 22 10:43

That the City of El Paso supports the Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) approach in addressing particulate matter (PM) exceedances caused by uncontrollable natural events in the El Paso area and supports the City inclusion in the Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) and authorizes the City Manager to send a letter in support of the Natural Events Action Plan to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
(Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., (915) 621-6719]

RESOLUTION

'06 SEP 22 410 :43

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is developing a Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) to help address particulate matter (PM) exceedances caused by uncontrollable natural events in the El Paso area; and,

WHEREAS, the EPA Natural Events Policy offers guidance to the States for developing a NEAP and in areas such as El Paso where PM can be attributed to high winds, the EPA guidance recommends that States seek input and support from local entities; and,

WHEREAS, in the development of the NEAP, the TCEQ is working closely with the Joint Action Committee (JAC), a binominal committee made up of private citizens, private sector representatives, university officials, federal, state, and local government officials, and non-governmental environmental and public health organizations in this area; and,

WHEREAS, the City finds that it is in the best interest of the City that NEAP take into consideration the impact that uncontrolled natural events have on the PM readings for the El Paso area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

That the City of El Paso supports the Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) approach in addressing particulate matter (PM) exceedances caused by uncontrollable natural events in the El Paso area and supports the City inclusion in the NEAP and authorizes the City Manager to send a letter in support of the NEAP to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2006.

CITY OF EL PASO

John Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Lupe Cuellar
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Ellen Smyth, Director
Environmental Services Department

JOHN COOK
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
J. ALEXANDRO LOZANO, DISTRICT 3
MELINA CASTRO, DISTRICT 4
PRESI ORTEGA, JR., DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
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BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

September 26, 2006

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Planning Section
Theresa Pella
MC 206
P. O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Ms. Pella,

The City of El Paso is committed to addressing air quality challenges in the El Paso area. To this end, we would like to offer you any assistance you may need in developing a Natural Events Action Plan to help address particulate matter (PM) exceedances caused by uncontrollable natural events in the El Paso area.

We understand that for this project, the TCEQ is working closely with the Joint Action Committee (JAC), a binominal committee made up of private citizens, private sector representatives, university officials, federal, state, and local government officials, and non-governmental environmental and public health organizations. The JAC serves as the local community-based organization overseeing the process to achieve cleaner air for the Paso del Norte region.

The EPA Natural Events Policy offers guidance to the States for developing a NEAP. In areas such as El Paso where PM can be attributed to high winds, the EPA guidance recommends that States seek input and support from local entities. By way of this letter, we would like to express our support of this effort.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted at 915-541-4844.

City of El Paso

Joyce Wilson
City Manager