



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Licenses,
Reporting
Filing,
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Rider 7 (formerly Rider 8) State and Local Air Quality Planning Program: Background and History

Background information on TCEQ's Rider 7 program to support local air quality planning in Texas.

History

The program originated with a \$500,000 rider appropriation from the 74th Texas Legislature in 1995 to support local air quality planning efforts in Austin, San Antonio, Northeast Texas, and Corpus Christi toward attaining the Federal Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A fifth area, Victoria, was added in 1998 and the Legislature's appropriation eventually grew to \$5,075,000 by 2002.

By 2005, the TCEQ and three of these local areas (Austin, San Antonio, and Northeast Texas) had adopted Early Action Compacts into the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP). Austin and Corpus Christi had entered into an Ozone Flex Agreement with the TCEQ and the U.S. EPA. All four programs prevented these areas from entering active nonattainment status under the 1997 eight-hour Ozone NAAQS through 2007.

Over the bienniums, the Rider has appropriated various amounts and revised the areas eligible for the program.

The Rider 7 program was eliminated from TCEQ's budget on June 12, 2017 and is no longer active.

-
- Cleanups, Remediation

Texas 84th Legislature Appropriations Rider 7 for

(/remediation)

- **Emergency Response**
(/response)
- **Licensing**
(/licensing)
- **Permits, Registration**
(/permitting/business_permitting.html)
- **Preventing Pollution**
(/p2/pollution_prevention.html)
- **Recycling**
(/p2/recycle/recycling.html)
- **Reporting**
(/permitting/reporting.html)
- **Rules** (/rules/rules_rulemaking.html)

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(https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/directory)



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TCEQ

Appropriation: Air Quality Planning

Included in amounts appropriated above, out of the Clean Air Account No. 151 in Strategy A.1.1 Air Quality Assessment and Planning, is \$ 6,000,500 for the biennium beginning on September 1, 2015 for air quality planning activities to reduce ozone in areas not designated as nonattainment areas during the 2016-17 biennium and as approved the TCEQ. These areas may include Waco, El Paso, Beaumont, Austin, Corpus Christi, Granbury, Killeen-Temple, Longview-Tyler-Marshall, San Antonio, and Victoria.

These activities may be carried out through inter-local agreements or contracts and may include identifying, inventorying, and monitoring of pollution levels, modeling pollution levels and the identification, quantification, and implementation of appropriate locally enforceable pollution-reduction controls; and the submission or work plans to be submitted to the TCEQ. The TCEQ shall allocate \$350,000 to each area and the remaining funds to each area based on population in excess of 350,000. The grant recipients shall channel the funds to those projects most useful for the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Air Quality Planning Efforts

With guidance from the TCEQ, all areas were encouraged to devote resources to the following tasks:



- update the conceptual understanding of local ozone formation processes
- assess the state of local emissions inventories (identifying possible areas of improvement)
- analyze air quality monitoring in their areas
- identify controls for future in-depth study
- improve local monitoring networks
- emissions inventory improvements
- develop local control strategies
- use a photochemical modeling episode developed by the TCEQ to analyze ozone sources and conduct sensitivity tests
- improve public understanding of the ozone problem and motivate the public to voluntarily reduce its contribution to ozone pollution
- involve local stakeholders in local air quality planning so these efforts have broad support within local communities

Home
(/)About Us
(/agency/about-the-tceq)

Connect With Us
Contact Us
(/agency/directory/)

Programs
Air (/agency/air_main.html)
Land

Documents
Data and Records
(/agency/data)

Online Services (/e-services)	Working With Us (/agency/public_workingwithus.html)	(/agency/land_main.html)	Rules (/rules)
Environmental Emergencies (/response)	YouTube	Water (/agency/water_main.html)	Forms (/publications/search_forms.shtml)
For TCEQ Employees (/agency/employees.html)	(http://www.youtube.com/user/TCEQNews)	Permits (/permitting/business_permitting.html)	Publications (/publications)
		Licenses (/licensing/licensing)	Maps (/agency/data/maps.html)
	(https://twitter.com/TCEQ)	Reporting (/permitting/reporting.html)	Public Notices (/agency/decisions/cc/pub_notice.html)
	 (/goto/govdelivery)		

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