



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, air quality can threaten our environment, economy, and the health of the residents of Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, air pollution levels in Central Texas were considered “moderate” or worse as a result of elevated ozone (O₃) or fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution on thirty-four percent of days in 2020, according to the National Air Quality Index; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people with lung disease and people with heart disease are particularly affected by poor air quality, and make up about two out of every five residents in the CAPCOG region; and

WHEREAS, ground-level O₃ levels in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remain close to exceeding the O₃ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and the regions PM_{2.5} levels are within the range EPA recently considered for the PM_{2.5} NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, ground-level ozone is an odorless, colorless gas that leads to respiratory problems and is driven locally by combustion sources such as cars, trucks, construction equipment, and power plants; and

WHEREAS, particulate matter, which is different from ozone, is defined as the sum of all solid and liquid particles suspended in air, which include both organic and inorganic particles, such as dust, pollen, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets, which can vary in size and come from sources such as road and construction dust, prescribed fires, commercial cooking, and mining and quarrying; and

WHEREAS, particles with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or smaller are small enough to penetrate and harm numerous body systems, and have been shown scientifically to cause premature death, lung cancer, cardiovascular effects, nervous system effects, and respiratory effects; and

WHEREAS, remaining in compliance with the NAAQS is important not only for public health, but also for the region’s economy and ability to conduct transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated May 3-7, 2021, as National Air Quality Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Williamson County supports the efforts of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote air quality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim May 3 - 7, 2021 as “**Air Quality Awareness Week**” in Williamson County and encourages our residents and employees to educate themselves about air quality, including visiting CAPCOG’s Air Central Texas website at AirCentralTexas.org, and promote air quality and air quality awareness within our community.

Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court