



July 2023 Air Quality Update

Updates this month:

- First ozone exceedance of the year at Camp Bullis: 76 ppb on June 21
- All-electric Volkswagen Settlement grant now open with up to 100% for gov't entities

Under the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), the annual fourth-highest maximum daily average 8-hour (MDA8) ozone concentration, averaged over three years, measured at each regulatory monitor within an area must not exceed 70 parts per billion (ppb).

Regulatory Updates

AACOG hosted a TCEQ public hearing on July 13 for proposed Bexar County Moderate Ozone Nonattainment SIP Revisions and associated rulemaking for I/M. TCEQ is proposing to set the emission I/M fee for Bexar County at \$11.50, with a proposed implementation date of November 1, 2026. **Note: The recent repeal of state-mandated vehicle safety inspections will not affect the proposed Bexar County emissions inspections.** For more information related to Bexar County ozone planning activities, please visit <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/san/san-latest-ozone>.

2023 Ozone Season

The 2023 ozone season began on March 1. This will be the final year of ozone data that will determine if Bexar County is bumped up to serious nonattainment. For more information about serious nonattainment, see Figure 3. The current four highest MDA8 for each Bexar County regulatory monitor is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Four Highest MDA8 at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2023*

Monitor Site	Date	PPB	Date	PPB	Date	PPB	Date	PPB
San Antonio NW C23	5/22/2023	69	6/7/2023	66	5/27/2023	65	4/17/2023	61
Camp Bullis C58	6/21/2023	76	5/22/2023	70	5/27/2023	69	6/7/2023	68
Calaveras Lake C59	5/27/2023	65	2/27/2023	65	3/4/2023	64	5/25/2023	63

* Ozone data validated through March 2023

The Camp Bullis CAMS 58 ozone monitor is already out of compliance with the NAAQS based on 2023 ozone data to date, as shown in Table 2.

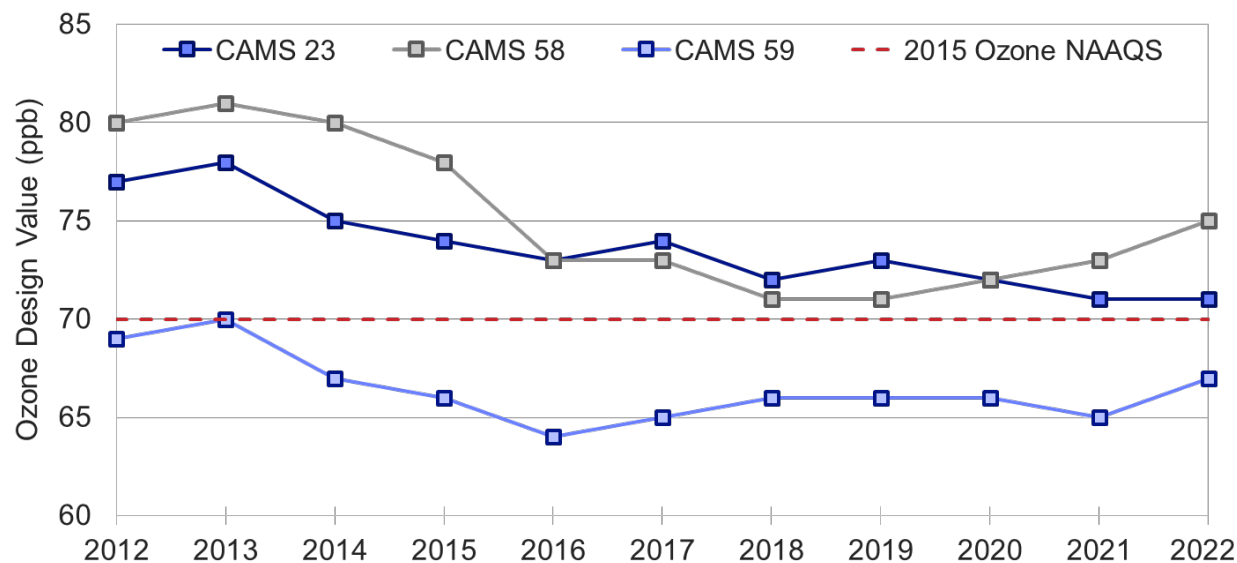
*Table 2: Fourth Highest MDA8 and Preliminary Three-Year Averages at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2020-2022**

Monitor	Fourth Highest MDA8 (ppb)			Preliminary Three-Year Average
	2021	2022	2023*	
San Antonio NW C23	70	76	61	69
Camp Bullis C58	78	75	68	73
Calaveras Lake C59	66	70	63	66

* Ozone data validated through September 2022 and will be certified by EPA by May 2023

The annual ozone trend since 2012 for each regulatory monitor is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Design Value Trend at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2012 – 2022



The EPA’s Air Quality Index for ozone defines “moderate” days as those having MDA8 between 54 and 70 ppb, and “unhealthy for sensitive groups” days as those with MDA8 between 71 and 85 ppb. So far there have been 32 moderate ozone days and one day with MDA8 > 70 ppb.

The TCEQ issues Ozone Action Day alerts when air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups the following day. Ozone Action Day alerts warn people, especially those sensitive to pollution (older people, children, and those with underlying respiratory conditions, like asthma), to limit their exposure outdoors. It is also an opportunity for the public to take measures to mitigate their contribution to pollution by reducing energy consumption at home and by driving less. Ozone Action Day alert verification statistics for 2023 are listed in Table 3 and will be updated as they are issued, or on days when MDA8 exceeds 70 ppb and no alert is issued. So far in 2023,

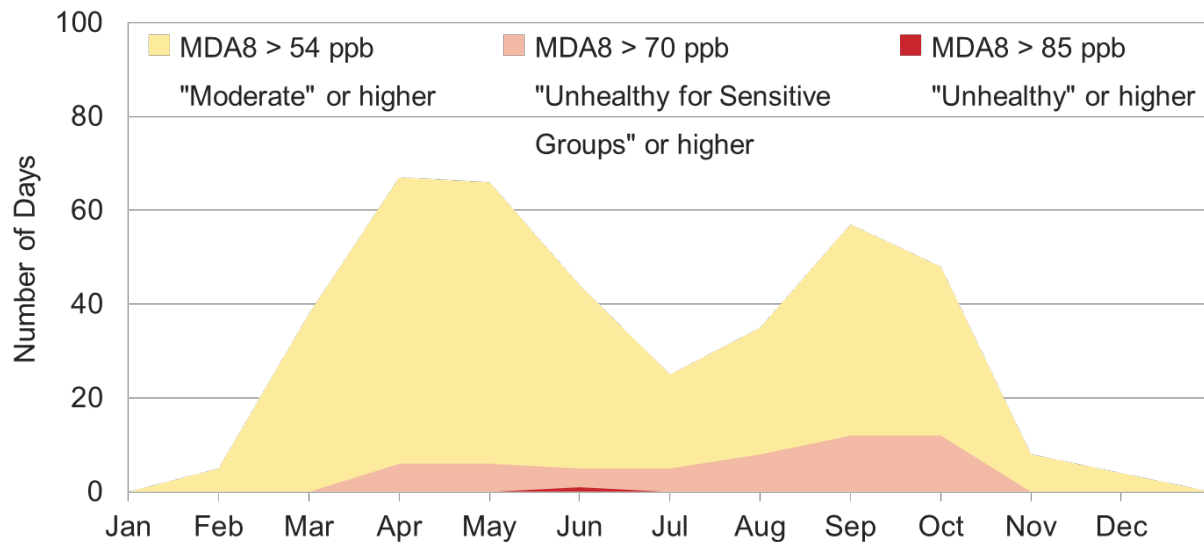
there have been two Ozone Action Day alerts issued, neither of which verified. The lone exceedance so far this year did not come with an Ozone Action Day alert.

Table 3: Ozone Action Day Statistics, 2023

Date	Alert?	Peak MDA8	Verified?
5/18/2023	Yes	65 ppb	No
6/7/2023	Yes	66 ppb	No
6/21/2023	No	76 ppb	No

Figure 2 shows the seasonal distribution of high ozone days at selected thresholds using data from 2016-2022. There are two clear peaks during the ozone season where the frequency of elevated ozone days increases sharply. We are currently in the “mid-summer minimum,” when high ozone events are less common. The fall ozone season peak begins in August and lasts through October and is typically more severe than the April-June spring peak. The historical frequency of high ozone days declines after mid-October.

Figure 2: Ozone Exceedances at Regulatory Monitors by Monthly Period, 2016-2022



Grant Funding Opportunities

Table 4 is a list of active Federal and state grants for alternative fuel vehicles or infrastructure. The TCEQ recently announced the opening of its all-electric Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP) grant. At least 51% of the grant funded vehicle’s annual operation must occur in Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, or Wilson Counties, or other Priority Areas as defined by TCEQ. There are currently no active Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) grants. TERP grants will resume after the new fiscal year.

Table 4: List of Active Grants for On-Road Mobile Source Replacement

Program	Description	Deadline
EPA Clean School Bus Program	\$400 million in competitive grant funding; minimum of 15 school buses per application; no cost share required	8/22/2023
TxVEMP All-Electric Grants	Up to 100% reimbursement for gov't, 75% for non-gov't; Most medium- and heavy-duty on-road and port drayage, airport ground support, forklifts, port cargo handling equipment	8/31/2025

San Antonio - New Braunfels MSA Ozone Status

Bexar County was designated marginal nonattainment under the 2015 ozone NAAQS on September 24, 2018. This triggered a three-year deadline to attain the NAAQS by September 24, 2021 (attainment date), or effectively, the end of the 2020 ozone season (attainment year). Bexar County missed its attainment date based on having a 2020 design value of 72 ppb, which initiated another three-year deadline to achieve the NAAQS (September 24, 2024). Failure to attain the NAAQS by the 2023 attainment year will result in a reclassification to serious nonattainment. The Federal regulations and thresholds are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Marginal, Moderate, and Serious Nonattainment Federal Regulations

