



## October 2024 Air Quality Update

### Updates this month:

- TCEQ is hosting an informational webinar about the newly-revised NAAQS for fine particulate matter on June 27 at 10 am – [Click to Register](#)

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).

Under the 2024 annual primary fine particulate matter (PM2.5) NAAQS, the annual mean PM2.5 concentration averaged over three years measured at each regulatory monitor within an area must not exceed 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

### 2024 Ozone Season

The 2024 ozone season began on March 1, 2024. Two Bexar County monitors currently exceed the 2015 ozone NAAQS as of October 20: San Antonio NW CAMS 23 and Camp Bullis CAMS 58 (Table 1). These values will be certified by EPA no later than May 2025.

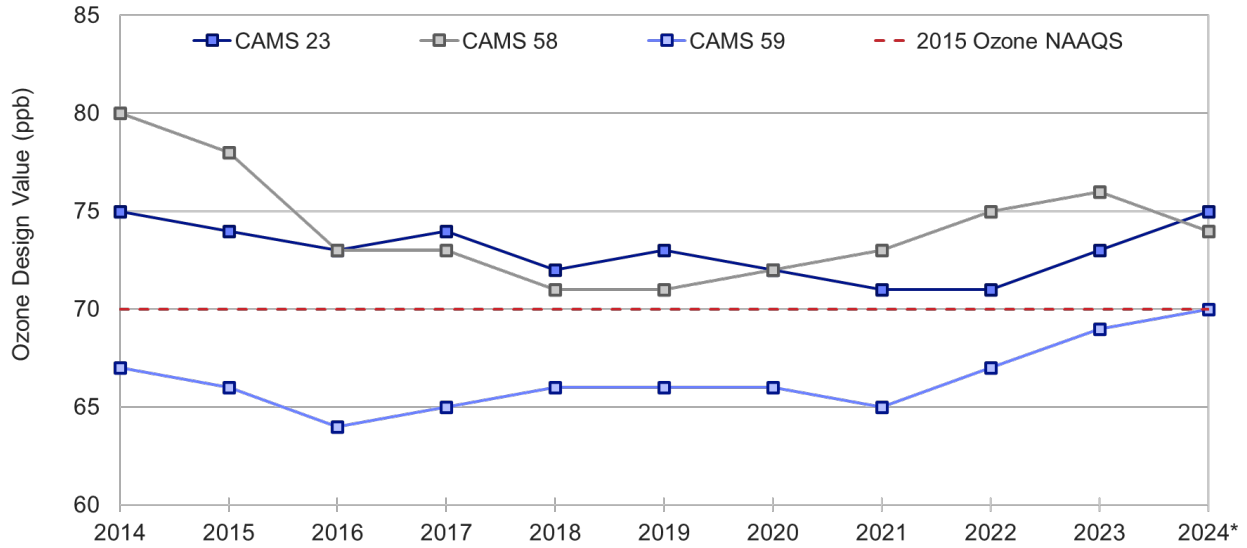
*Table 1: Fourth Highest MDA8 and Preliminary Three-Year Averages at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2022-2024\**

Monitor	Fourth Highest MDA8 (ppb)			Preliminary Three-Year Average*
	2022	2023	2024*	
San Antonio NW C23	76	74	76	75
Camp Bullis C58	75	76	73	74
Calaveras Lake C59	70	71	70	70

\* Ozone data validated through June 2024 and will be certified by EPA no later than May 2025

The annual ozone trend since 2014 for each regulatory monitor is shown in Figure 1. Design Values have trended upward over the last three years after being stagnant since 2016.

Figure 1: Design Value Trend at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2014 – 2023



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. Table 2 shows the four highest MDA8 ozone readings for 2024. So far, 62 moderate days and nine days with MDA8 > 70 ppb have been recorded. On average, about 65 moderate days and nine days with MDA8 > 70 ppb occur each ozone season.

Table 2: Four Highest MDA8 at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2024\*

Monitor Site	Date	PPB	Date	PPB	Date	PPB	Date	PPB
San Antonio NW C23	10/10/2024	81	6/7/2024	79	10/9/2024	77	9/30/2024	76
Camp Bullis C58	10/10/2024	85	6/7/2024	83	10/11/2024	80	10/9/2024	73
Calaveras Lake C59	5/14/2024	75	6/7/2024	73	10/1/2024	71	8/6/2024	70

\* Ozone data for 2024 is validated through June and will be certified by EPA no later than May 2025

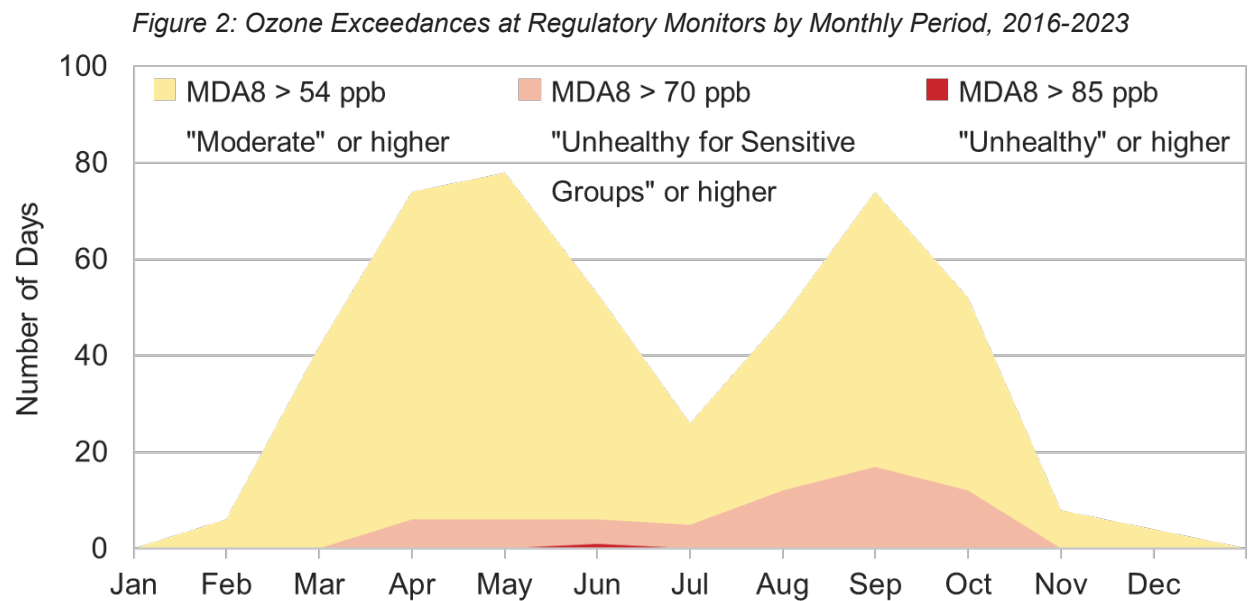
The TCEQ issues Ozone Action Day alerts when air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups the following day. Ozone Action Day alerts warn people, especially those sensitive to pollution (older people, children, and those with underlying respiratory conditions, like asthma), to limit their 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 2024 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 2024, there have been nine Ozone Action Day alerts issued, with two resulting in high ozone events. Alerts were not issued for four of the days that had MDA8 greater than 70 ppb.

Table 3: Ozone Action Day Statistics, 2024

Date	Alert?	Peak MDA8	Verified?
5/14/2024	No	75 ppb	No

5/18/2024	Yes	69 ppb	No
5/29/2024	No	71 ppb	No
6/6/2024	No	72 ppb	No
6/7/2024	No	83 ppb	No
6/8/2024	Yes	63 ppb	No
6/11/2024	Yes	61 ppb	No
6/13/2024	Yes	64 ppb	No
8/7/2024	Yes	58 ppb	No
8/8/2024	Yes	68 ppb	No
9/30/2024	Yes	76 ppb	Yes
10/1/2024	Yes	71 ppb	Yes
10/4/2024	Yes	62 ppb	No
10/9/2024	No	77 ppb	No
10/10/2024	Yes	85 ppb	Yes
10/11/2024	Yes	80 ppb	Yes

Figure 2 shows the seasonal distribution of high ozone days at selected thresholds using data from 2016-2023. There are two distinct peaks during the ozone season where the frequency of elevated ozone days increases sharply. The first of these peaks is in the spring, generally from April through June, and the second peak is in the fall, from August through October.



On February 7, 2024, the EPA revised the annual primary NAAQS for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from 12.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to 9.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . States are required to submit their recommended area

nonattainment designations within one year of revising the NAAQS, while EPA must finalize nonattainment designations within two years of revising the NAAQS. Given this timeline, it is most likely that the EPA will consider 2022-2024 PM2.5 data when making nonattainment designations. The 2022-2024 preliminary data for each regulatory PM2.5 monitor with a complete three year record are listed in Table 4. Three of the four regulatory PM2.5 monitors are recording a preliminary three-year average in excess of the new NAAQS. Three regulatory monitors, C23, C59, and C1069, are located in Bexar County, while C1090 is located in Atascosa County.

Table 4: Annual mean PM2.5 Regulatory Monitor Data for 2022-2024

Monitor	Annual mean PM2.5 concentration (µg/m³)			Preliminary Three-Year Average*
	2022	2023	2024*	
San Antonio NW C23	8.40	8.90	10.58	9.3
Calaveras Lake C59	6.89	7.42	9.03	7.8
San Antonio IH 35 C1069	8.48	9.46	10.49	9.5
Von Ormy Highway 16 C1090	9.06	8.83	11.52	9.8

\* Current as of October 21, 2024; PM2.5 data for 2024 is validated through June and will be certified by EPA no later than May 2025

## Grant Funding Opportunities for Mobile Sources

The TCEQ Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP) All-Electric grant is open through August 2025 (Table 4). To qualify, at least 51% of the grant funded vehicle’s annual operation must occur in the San Antonio Priority Area: Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, and Wilson Counties. Electric airport ground support equipment and electric port cargo handling equipment are also eligible.

There are currently three active Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) grants, which are listed in Table 4. The TCEQ opened its highly popular Rebate Grants Program on June 3, which provides financial incentives to replace or repower older on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles and select non-road diesel equipment to reduce emissions in ozone nonattainment areas and affected counties in Texas. Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional funding is available for projects that replace diesel with alternative fueled vehicles. A calendar of proposed TERP grant start dates for the 2024-2025 biennium is provided in Figure 3.

Table 5: List of Active Grants for On-Road Mobile Source Replacement

Program	Description	Deadline
<a href="#">TERP: Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY)</a>	Replacement/repower of drayage trucks and cargo handling equipment; includes fueling infrastructure; any legal entity operating at Union Pacific San Antonio Intermodal Terminal; reimbursement up to 80%	3/4/2025

TERP: Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG)	Replace or repower locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, and select non-road equipment in nonattainment and affected counties	10/29/2024
TERP: Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP)	Replace or repower eligible medium-duty or heavy-duty motor vehicles with a vehicle or engine powered by natural gas, including propane; Clean Transportation Zone counties	3/4/2025
TxVEMP: All-Electric Grants	Up to 100% reimbursement for gov't, 75% for non-gov't; Medium- and heavy-duty on-road and port drayage, airport ground support, forklifts, port cargo handling equipment; Priority Areas only	8/31/2025
EPA 2024 Clean School Bus Rebate Program	2010 or older replacements for CNG or propane; 2011 and newer for battery electric only; includes charging infrastructure; Prioritized districts could get up to \$325,000 per bus	1/9/2025
EPA: Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants	Funding for solid waste infrastructure, including trucks	12/20/2024

Figure 3: Projected 2024-2025 TERP Grant Release Schedule

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)		
FY 2024-2025 Program Schedule Projected Open Date		
Light Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase and Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP)	October-November 2023	\$10 million
Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Program (THIVE)	November 15, 2023	\$12 million
Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP)	January 3, 2024	\$12 million
Texas Clean School Bus Program (TCSB)	February 14, 2024	\$13.5 million
Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY)	April 3, 2024	\$20.3 million
Diesel Emissions Reduction Incentive Rounds (DERI)	May 15, 2024	\$144.4 million
Rebate Grants Program (Round 1)		
Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG)		
Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP)	September 4, 2024	\$25.4 million
Port Authority Studies and Pilot Programs	September 15, 2024	\$1 million
New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG)	October 16, 2024	\$11.5 million
Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program (GAFF)	December 4, 2024	\$5 million
Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP)	January 15, 2025	\$16.9 million
Rebate Grants Program (Round 2)	March 5, 2025	TBD

## San Antonio - New Braunfels MSA Ozone Status

Bexar County was designated marginal nonattainment under the 2015 ozone NAAQS on September 24, 2018. Ozone nonattainment areas are classified by the severity of the violation or amount of time out of compliance. Every three years out of compliance, nonattainment areas are bumped up to the next classification and face increasingly stringent federal regulations intended to bring the area into attainment. In 2023, Governor Abbott requested a voluntary reclassification for Bexar County to serious nonattainment, which the EPA is required to approve. Failure to attain the NAAQS by September 24, 2027, or effectively the end of the 2026 ozone season, will result

in a reclassification to severe nonattainment. The Federal regulations and thresholds are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Marginal, Moderate, and Serious Nonattainment Federal Regulations

