



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: May 13, 2025

In Control: Audit Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Auditor

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Baltazar Vargas

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of the Office of the City Auditor Report AU24-018 San Antonio Metropolitan Health District - Air Monitoring Programs

SUMMARY:

Determine if Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH) Air Monitoring Programs are effective and adequately managed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Background

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (SAMHD) PCEH manages three air monitoring programs: Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), BioWatch, and Air Pollution Control (APC) Program. These programs help monitor the air quality within the City of San Antonio and surrounding areas. Total revenue for all three programs for fiscal years 2023 and 2024

was \$858,625 and \$776,791 respectively.

TCEQ is a state agency that provides a contract to SAMHD to assist in operating and maintaining air monitoring stations. SAMHD Field Operators monitor equipment at these stations and update TCEQ on a continuous basis. Additionally, there is one non-continuous air monitoring station that requires Field Operators to collect filter samples and ship them to a TCEQ air laboratory.

BioWatch is a cooperative agreement funded federal program led by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that provides air-monitoring, analysis, notification procedures, and risk assessment for bioterrorism. SAMHD Field Operators monitor and collect samples from BioWatch equipment, which are then delivered to a BioWatch laboratory for testing.

The Air Pollution Control (APC) Program's purpose is to educate and register local businesses who have been identified as a pollution emission source within City of San Antonio limits. The APC Program determines strategies to lower ozone levels, air pollutants, and emissions. Businesses who fall under the APC Program are required to register with SAMHD and pay an annual fee of \$200. The APC Program is funded by the revenue generated from the annual fees.

Scope and Methodology

The audit scope was from October 2022 to September 2024. We reviewed the collection and reporting of TCEQ equipment data and preventative maintenance reports to determine if they were accurate and timely. We reviewed the BioWatch DHS audit results to determine compliance with SOPs. We also tested new and current business registrations and complaints to confirm compliance with the APC Program. Furthermore, we reviewed grant reimbursement requests for TCEQ and BioWatch to determine if they were accurate and properly approved.

Conclusion

The PCEH Air Monitoring Programs are effective and adequately managed by SAMHD. SAMHD has adequate procedures to confirm Field Operators are properly collecting and reporting equipment data and preventative maintenance reports to TCEQ. In addition, SAMHD has procedures in place to confirm the BioWatch program was compliant with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and corrective action plans were developed as necessary. Furthermore, the Air Pollution Control (APC) Program has effective procedures in place to identify and register businesses that emit air pollution. Lastly, SAMHD also has effective controls in place to ensure that TCEQ and BioWatch grant reimbursement requests were properly approved and supported.

We make no recommendations to the SAMHD; consequently, no management responses are required.

ISSUE:

This item is presented for acceptance by the Audit Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this audit report.