

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 4, 2023

TO Honorable Chair Stewart and Members of the Parks, Trails, & the Environment Committee

SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Update**

In November, the commission received briefings on the ForwardDallas Comprehensive Land Use Plan's Environmental Justice goals, the annual Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) progress, and an update on the Former Blue Star site remediation. We also discussed the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability's 2025 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

ForwardDallas Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Environmental Justice

Within the commission's recommendations to amend the city's Racial Equity Plan was an Equity Indicator that would create a mapping tool to measure distances between residential uses and incompatible industrial uses, including sources of air pollution, water pollution, and land contamination. It was suggested to Planning staff that they also utilize this new tool to further identify incompatible uses before the plan is finalized. It was also recommended that the performance metric of 500 feet between incompatible uses be increased to 1,000 feet. Reduction of this value will indicate improved adjacent land uses and enhanced protection of residents or sensitive uses such as parks, schools, or daycare facilities.

Commissioners previously discussed with Planning staff the idea of an EJ Overlay that would create additional considerations and requirements for land uses, permits, development plans, land clearing, allocation of resources, and notification to community stakeholders. We discussed the new Area of Focus designation to determine if it will accomplish the same goals.

We discussed how consideration is being given to community-led vision plans created out of self-determination and authorized hearings are being incorporated into the draft plan. Finally, we discussed the timeline for updating development and zoning code after the adoption of the ForwardDallas plan and what the public engagement component will include.

Annual CECAP Update

The commission heard a briefing from the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS) on the annual progress of the CECAP goals. OEQS staff answered questions and invited commission members to share additional feedback following the meeting.

In November, the commission attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) cumulative impacts project kick-off in West Dallas. This new project will evaluate the total environmental impacts experienced by West Dallas residents as a result of concrete batch plants. This study is the second of its kind in the nation and will include air quality modeling, water quality sampling, fish tissue analysis and soil sampling and analysis. A report will be made publicly available at the conclusion of the project in 2024. The data can be used to support policy and law-making and to better inform decisions and resources to advance environmental equity in West Dallas. The EPA is currently preparing to launch a similar project in the Dallas community of Joppa.

December Commission Meeting

In December, the commission will receive a briefing from the North Central Texas Council of Governments on a proposed Air Quality Improvement Plan, updates from OEQS on the Brownfield's Program, the results of the city's Urban Heat Island Study, and an update on the Office of Equity & Inclusion's Environmental Justice Equity Indicators for the city's Racial Equity Plan.

If you have any questions about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kathryn.bazan@dallas.gov.



Kathryn Bazan
Chairwoman, Dallas Environmental Commission

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	Mark Swann, City Auditor	Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
	Biliera Johnson, City Secretary	Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
	Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
	Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager	Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
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