

**TO:** H-GAC Board of Directors  
**SUBJECT:** Board Report  
**FROM:** Jack Steele  
**DATE:** January 9, 2012

Today's report covers key items on next week's Board of Directors agenda. I hope you will be present on Tuesday to help start the New Year.

**Consent Agenda**—the clean vehicles item continues our ongoing program, and proposes replacement of twenty-one higher emissions diesel engines with new technology equipment.

**Finance and Budget**—will meet at **9:40 a.m.** in Conference Room C. We'll have the initial December financial report for your review, which is also effectively a preliminary year-end report for H-GAC.

**Community and Environmental**—we are requesting authority to contract with the General Land Office for implementation of housing recovery activities in Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Walker and Waller Counties. These jurisdictions have requested to be a part of the H-GAC regional program, and activities so far have been proceeding on time and within budget. This contract will be for round 2.2 funding, and should assist about 262 households over a two-year period.

We also have our annual Parks and Natural Areas Honor Awards recognizing agencies and groups which have done outstanding work in expansion and enhancements of parks and open space.

**Transportation**—the staff and our Regional Air Quality Planning Committee are recommending filing comments with EPA requesting an extension of the comment period on EPA's proposed expansion of the ozone nonattainment area in our region to include Matagorda County. The EPA proposal came just before the holidays, with a hurry-up action schedule. EPA's proposal to expand the nonattainment area to include Matagorda County is not in sync with the TCEQ's recommendations, the Governor's recommendations, or H-GAC's recommendations. In addition, there are significant inconsistencies in data between EPA and TCEQ, and both population and vehicle miles travelled in Matagorda County have declined in recent years. For these and other reasons we are recommending a request for extension of the comment period so that data inconsistencies can be addressed and local comment can be more fully considered.

We are requesting authority to receive an additional \$3 million in Texas Emission Reduction Program funds from the TCEQ. If received, these funds will be used along with other funding sources to continue our vehicle and engine replacement program.

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**H-GAC Advisory Committee Appointments**—we have an appointment to the Criminal Justice Committee for your consideration.

**Retiring Board Member Resolution**—we will have a resolution honoring the service of Councilman Bob Geter of Lake Jackson.

Next week's meeting is the last for Commissioner Doyal as our 2011-12 Chair. H-GAC's Annual meeting will be held on January 27, and we will have more about that next Tuesday. I hope you will plan to be present next week to help Commissioner Doyal complete his tenure in fine style with another productive meeting on behalf of our region and its local governments. Meanwhile, if you have questions or suggestions concerning the agenda or any H-GAC program or service, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jack Steele

JS/ndg

Enclosure