



## September 2023 Air Quality Update

### Updates this month:

- Multiple high ozone events were recorded in late August and early September
- This was part of a statewide series of high ozone events that have caused monitors in Austin and Waco to fall out of compliance with the 2015 ozone NAAQS for the first time

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).

### 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	9/1/2023	78	8/31/2023	78	9/11/2023	74	9/2/2023	74
Camp Bullis C58	9/1/2023	81	8/31/2023	77	9/2/2023	76	6/21/2023	76
Calaveras Lake C59	8/31/2023	77	8/29/2023	77	9/1/2023	73	9/2/2023	71

\* Ozone data validated through May 2023 and will be certified by EPA by May 2024

CAMS 23 and CAMS 58 are already out of compliance with the NAAQS based on 2023 ozone data to date, as shown in Table 2.

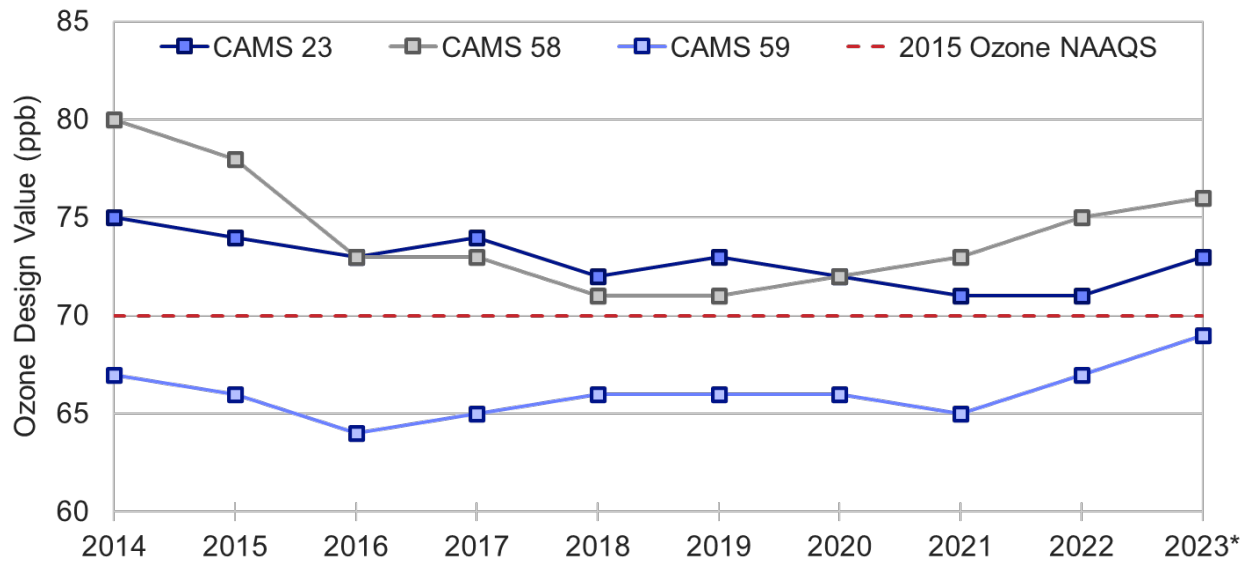
Table 2: Fourth Highest MDA8 and Preliminary Three-Year Averages at Bexar County Regulatory Monitors, 2021-2023\*

Monitor	Fourth Highest MDA8 (ppb)			Preliminary Three-Year Average*
	2021	2022	2023*	
San Antonio NW C23	70	76	74	73
Camp Bullis C58	78	75	76	76
Calaveras Lake C59	66	70	71	69

\* Ozone data validated through May 2023 and will be certified by EPA by May 2024

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\*



\* Ozone data validated through May 2023 and will be certified by EPA by May 2024

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 53 moderate ozone days, with eight days with MDA8 > 70 ppb.

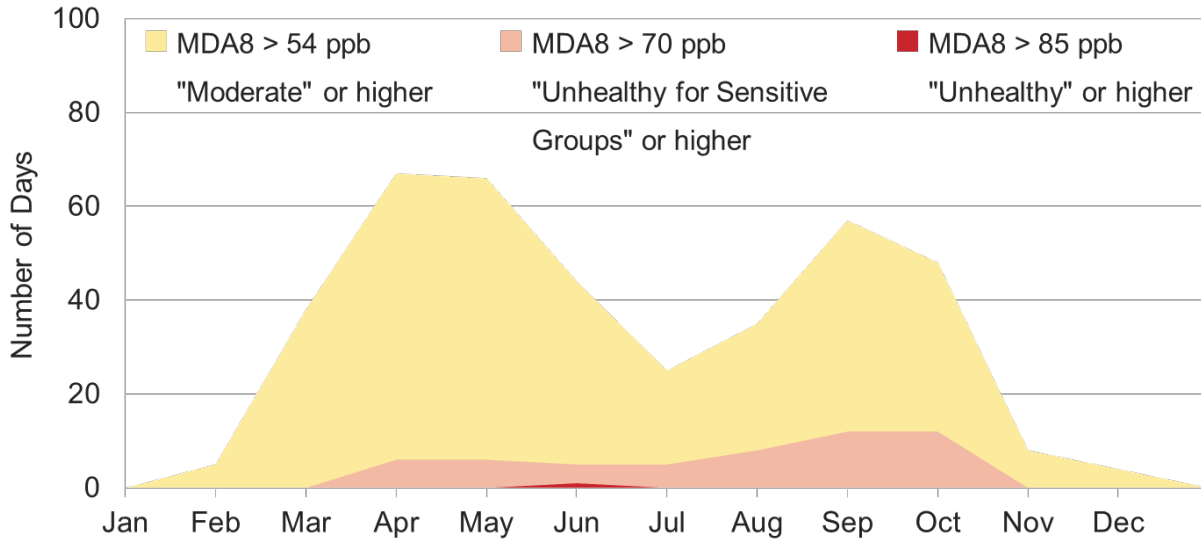
The TCEQ issues Ozone Action Day alerts when air quality is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups the following day. Ozone Action Day alerts warn people, especially those sensitive to pollution (older people, children, and those with underlying respiratory conditions, like asthma), to limit their 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 **ten** Ozone Action Day alerts issued. Alerts were not issued for the days that had MDA8 greater than 70 ppb.

Table 3: Ozone Action Day Statistics, 2023

Date	Alert?	Peak MDA8	Verified?
5/18/2023	Yes	65 ppb	No
6/7/2023	Yes	68 ppb	No
6/21/2023	No	76 ppb	No
8/16/2023	No	74 ppb	No
8/17/2023	Yes	60 ppb	No
8/25/2023	No	72 ppb	No
8/27/2023	Yes	63 ppb	No
8/28/2023	No	72 ppb	No
8/29/2023	No	77 ppb	No
8/30/2023	Yes	71 ppb	Yes
8/31/2023	Yes	82 ppb	Yes
9/1/2023	Yes	81 ppb	Yes
9/2/2023	Yes	76 ppb	Yes
9/3/2023	Yes	61 ppb	No
9/11/2023	No	75 ppb	No
9/12/2023	Yes	63 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 fall ozone season peak, which begins in August and lasts through October, and is typically more severe than the 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

The TCEQ recently announced the opening of its all-electric Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP) grant (Table 4). 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. The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program offers up to 100% reimbursement of eligible project costs, which includes charging infrastructure.

The Federal government recently announced the opening of the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator, which will provide up to \$100 million in Federal funding to repair and replace existing but non-operational, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Eligible applicants include only State DOTs and local governments and proposals are due on Nov 13th. This program complements the massive investment in electric vehicle infrastructure under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program. TxDOT is now accepting applications for NEVI funding along FHWA-designated electric vehicle corridors through October 16 at 5 pm CDT.

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
<a href="#">TxVEMP All-Electric Grants</a>	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

