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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Hutchinson and Council members

FROM: Eric Levine, Chair, Air Quality Advisory Board

CC: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Lucinda Smith, AQAB Staff Liaison

DATE: October 20, 2010

SUBJECT: AQAB Recommendations on 2011/2012 Proposed Budget

On September 20, 2010, the Air Quality Advisory Board discussed the City Manager's Recommended Budget. Following the discussion, the Board voted unanimously (7-0-0) on the following statement.

In light of the financial difficulties confronting the City in the next two years, the Air Quality Advisory Board supports the continuance of the air quality budget as proposed in the City Manager's recommended 2011/2012 budget. While it is difficult to quantify, we believe the impact of the air quality program on citizen's quality of life exceeds the relatively small investment. Continuance of air quality funding at the level of the prior budget will at least preserve the existing outstanding personnel and program opportunities, and support progress on community air quality and Climate Action Plan goals.

The Board recognizes there are there are significant air quality needs that must be addressed in the next two years, and the proposed budget does not go as far as we'd like to address air quality issues. For example, the Air Quality Board discussed concerns about the lack of full funding for the bike coordinator position and associated funding to leverage grant dollars. In general, many air quality issues will likely continue to increase in severity in the foreseeable future, and will place increasing pressure on City budgets. Planning for this now would be prudent.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the budget development process.