



June 12, 2017

## Governor Vetoes Rider Funding for LIRAP and LIP

To All Urban Counties:

Today the Governor signed the general appropriations act for the upcoming biennium and vetoed \$120 million in spending, including \$95 million in funding for air quality and eliminating funding for LIRAP and LIP. Counties in these programs may want to consider their participation and the collection of the local fee. Details on the process to participate in LIRAP and how to opt out are attached.

The Governor indicated in his veto statement (**attached**) that environmental awareness and pollution reduction projects should be funded at the local government level. He also indicated the LIRAP program should be abolished and counties should reassess the local option fee to fund the programs.

LIRAP, now better known as the Drive a Clean Machine program, was created in 2007 to remove older, polluting cars and trucks and replace them with newer, cleaner vehicles. This program is funded via an additional fee on emissions inspections collected only in the participating counties (\$6 in nonattainment counties and \$2 for other counties). It is important to note that LIRAP is a voluntary program with counties opting to impose the fee.

In addition, the state created the Local Initiatives Program (LIP) to allow the participating counties to use some of the LIRAP funds for local air quality improvement projects. Identifying and enforcement of counterfeit inspection stickers is a local air quality improvement project that funds are often used for.

### Counties that participate in LIRAP/LIP are:

#### Austin Program Area

- Travis
- Williamson

## Dallas-Fort Worth Program Area

- Collin
- Dallas
- Denton
- Ellis
- Johnson
- Kaufman
- Parker
- Rockwall
- Tarrant

## Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Program Area

- Brazoria
- Fort Bend
- Galveston
- Harris
- Montgomery

In addition, the Governor vetoed \$859k in funding for the Secretary of States Office to oversee colonias funding. The veto statement indicated that services to improve colonias was funded across numerous other agencies and the Secretary of State simply served as a liaison and reporting role. The veto will eliminate the colonia ombudsman positions that advocate on behalf of colonia residents in El Paso, Maverick, Webb, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron and Nueces counties.

Please contact me if I may be of additional assistance on this or any other matter.

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