

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:05:56 AM

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**From:** Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:01 AM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 06/22/2022 - 06:42

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

**Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about**

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

#### **Public Comments**

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#### **First Name**

Cynthia

#### **Last Name**

Wilcox

#### **Title**

President

#### **Organization you are affiliated with**

Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods (OHAN)

#### **Email**

[President@OHAN.org](mailto:President@OHAN.org)

#### **City**

Austin

#### **State**

Texas

#### **Your Comments or Concerns**

TCEQ fails to adequately monitor or control particulate pollution and other harmful pollutants and emissions associated with road construction, batch plants and pug mills. At the construction site associated with the "Oak Hill Parkway" elevated freeway project, TXDoT and its contractors (including Colorado River Constructors or CRC) are allowing visible particulate dust pollution to billow out of the site and blow over nearby homes and businesses. If there is any pretense of attempting to minimize the particulate dust pollution, it is visibly and woefully inadequate, and TCEQ does not appear to even be monitoring the situation much less taking action about the violation. In addition to the current failure to monitor and control harmful particulate pollution, TXDoT and CRC have received TCEQ approval to aggravate the situation by placing a concrete batch plant and pug mill within the construction zone in Oak Hill - which further endanger the community through exposure to even more deadly airborne pollutants. According to Rice University's Kinder Institute report "without air monitors, residents might not know about those emissions. It's dusty, but they might not know that they're breathing one of the deadliest kinds of air pollution. Particulate matter is linked to serious health conditions, including reduced lung development in children, higher rates of asthma, bronchitis, heart disease and cancer. The most recent data, compiled from a range of sources, including satellite imagery, show that, in 2015 alone, particulate matter was linked to 5,200 premature deaths in Houston. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are also a problem at concrete batch plants, says Dr. Latrice Babin, director of Harris County Pollution Control. VOCs can irritate the eyes and respiratory system and cause shortness of breath, headaches, fatigue, skin problems and impair the memory. Higher concentrations of VOCs can damage the liver, kidney and brain, according to Babin."

### **Your Proposed Solution**

Install air monitors in and around the "Oak Hill Parkway" elevated freeway project.

- Provide notification to OHAN's Board of Directors immediately of any permit application or permit renewal request associated with any concrete batch plant and/or pug mill.
- Guarantee continual monitoring of the construction area and any batch plants and/or pug mills located in Oak Hill for the release of microparticles, in addition to any other optional or required monitoring of emissions, pollutants, runoff, particulates - including visible dust, and any other discharge.
- Require that any and all monitoring reports be made public and accessible to our community, and provided immediately upon release in electronic form to the Board of Directors of the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods at [Board@OHAN.org](mailto:Board@OHAN.org)

### **Attachment**

[OHAN Letter re Violation & Batch Plant Pug Mill Monitoring.pdf](#) (199.18 KB)

### **My Comments Will Be Made Public**

Yes



# OHAN

**OAK HILL ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

DATE: June 20, 2022

TO: Representative Vikki Goodwin  
Council Member Paige Ellis  
Travis County Judge Andy Brown  
Travis County Commissioners, Howard, Travillion, Shea, Gómez

FROM: Board of Directors - Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods (OHAN)

RE: Report of violation of TCEQ's prohibition on visible dust at Oak Hill Parkway construction site

Requests related to Concrete Batch Plant and/or Pug Mill

Dear Representative Goodwin, Council Member Ellis, Travis County Judge Brown, and Travis County Commissioners Howard, Travillion, Shea and Gómez,

Oak Hill Residents have reported to OHAN's Board violations by TXDoT and/or CRC of TCEQ's prohibition on particulate pollution - including visible dust – which neighbors have observed billowing out of the construction zone of the Oak Hill Parkway.

The Membership of the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods voted unanimously in favor of the following at the June 15 membership meeting:

- Locate any concrete batch plant and/or pug mill outside of Oak Hill and at a minimum of 800 feet from any residence, church or daycare.

If a batch plant and/or pug mill is located anywhere in Oak Hill:

- Provide notification to OHAN's Board of Directors immediately of any permit application or permit renewal request associated with any concrete batch plant and/or pug mill.
- Guarantee continual monitoring of any batch plants and/or pug mills located in Oak Hill for the release of microparticles, in addition to any other optional or required monitoring of emissions, pollutants, runoff, particulates - including visible dust, and any other discharge.
- Require that any and all monitoring reports be made public and accessible to our community, and provided immediately upon release in electronic form to the Board of Directors of the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods at [Board@OHAN.org](mailto:Board@OHAN.org)

Please respond regarding violations of the prohibition on visible particulate dust pollution, and monitoring of the construction site and any associated facilities, including but not limited to, batch plants and pug mills.

Sincerely,

OHAN's Board of Directors