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OAQDA Launches New Clean Air Improvement Program and Approves \$2 Million to Support Franklin County Project

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) recently approved guidelines for its new Clean Air Improvement Program (CAIP) at the August 11, 2020 Authority meeting.

The program supports air quality facility improvements statewide by providing financial support through its bond financing and related tax exemptions, including sales and use, real property, and bond interest income. Qualified projects include, but are not limited to, the following: whole building projects, new construction component isolation, retrofit component isolation, renewable energy generation and criteria pollutant or greenhouse gas reduction.

“CAIP allows for more investments in Ohio’s economy in a time when it is needed most,” said O’Keeffe. “By financing these larger energy conservation and pollution control projects and focusing on more transparency and accountability, we are helping to stimulate local economies with building infrastructure improvements and creating jobs while improving the health and safety of all Ohioans.”

A reboot of the former Project Development and Financing Program, CAIP is now available for qualified projects that contribute to better air quality, are determined as air quality facilities by OAQDA under Chapter 3706 of the Ohio Revised Code, and meet the program guidelines. All approved projects must report their performance during the term of the bond financing.

Developers, small and large businesses, utilities, governments and institutions are welcome to submit an application by visiting OAQDA’s website at <https://ohioairquality.ohio.gov/>. The program is released during a pilot period, which is open to public comment and stakeholder input. Feedback is encouraged through March 2021. Please email info@aqda.state.oh.us.

Also at the meeting, the Authority approved bond financing for the Easton Office, LLC in Franklin County. The funding will allow the business to purchase and install energy-efficient equipment.

“With the bonds approved by the Authority, this Columbus office will reduce air pollution and enhance efficiency practices,” said Christina O’Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. “The company’s commitment to improving air quality while enhancing the local community should be commended.”

Easton Office is a commercial property management firm and part of Alterra Real Estate Advisors. The Authority has granted \$2 million in financing for a renovation project, located at 3 Easton Oval in Columbus. The project will include renovating portions of the building envelope, HVAC, lighting, building automation system, elevator and adding a solar electric system.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to prevent air pollution throughout the state of Ohio by providing businesses with the resources they need to reduce harmful air emissions and be more energy efficient while creating jobs and boosting local economies. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.