

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: June 27, 2024**

DATE: June 20, 2024

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** - Legislation Introduced to Mitigate Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires, April 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance

1. Program Update

a. Legislation Introduced to Mitigate Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA) have introduced “National Prescribed Fire Act” in the Senate (S. 4424) and House (H.R. 8554) to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on lands managed by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) or U.S. Forest Service to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The legislation would invest in hazardous fuels management to reduce the risk of blistering infernos by increasing the pace and scale of prescribed burns during cooler, wetter months. It would also create a technically skilled prescribed fire workforce and streamline smoke regulations during winter months to reduce catastrophic fires and smoke in the summer.



“Every Californian knows firsthand how damaging wildfires can be, especially for smaller, rural communities. These fires destroy towns, cities, and forested areas and severely impact air quality here in the Valley. Over the past few years, it’s become increasingly clear we need better ways of preventing these devastating fires from breaking out, to begin with,” said Congressman Valadao. “The National Prescribed

Fire Act will enact commonsense forest management reforms to help prevent wildfires and save lives. I'm proud to join Rep. Schrier in introducing this important legislation.”

The National Prescribed Fire Act of 2024 would:

- Authorize \$300 million for the Forest Service and Department of the Interior accounts to plan, prepare, and conduct prescribed burns on federal, state, and private lands.
- Require the Forest Service and Department of Interior to increase the number of acres treated with prescribed fire.
- Establish a \$10 million collaborative program, based on the successful Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, to implement prescribed burns on county, state, and private land at high risk of burning in a wildfire.
- Establish a workforce development program at the Forest Service and DOI to develop, train, and hire prescribed fire practitioners and establish employment programs for Tribes, Veterans, women, and those formerly incarcerated.
- Require state air quality agencies to use current laws and regulations to allow larger prescribed burns and give states more flexibility in winter months to conduct prescribed burns that reduce catastrophic smoke events in the summer.
- Provide direction for setting clear standards for prescribed fire practitioner liability and studying the merits of a claims fund to aid cross-jurisdictional wildfire prevention efforts.

b. April 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter

Please visit the link below to view the April 2024 EPA small business monthly newsletter highlighting environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources, and upcoming



EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

events. Contact asbo@epa.gov to subscribe to the newsletter. For more information about small business resources and Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs), visit <https://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses>.

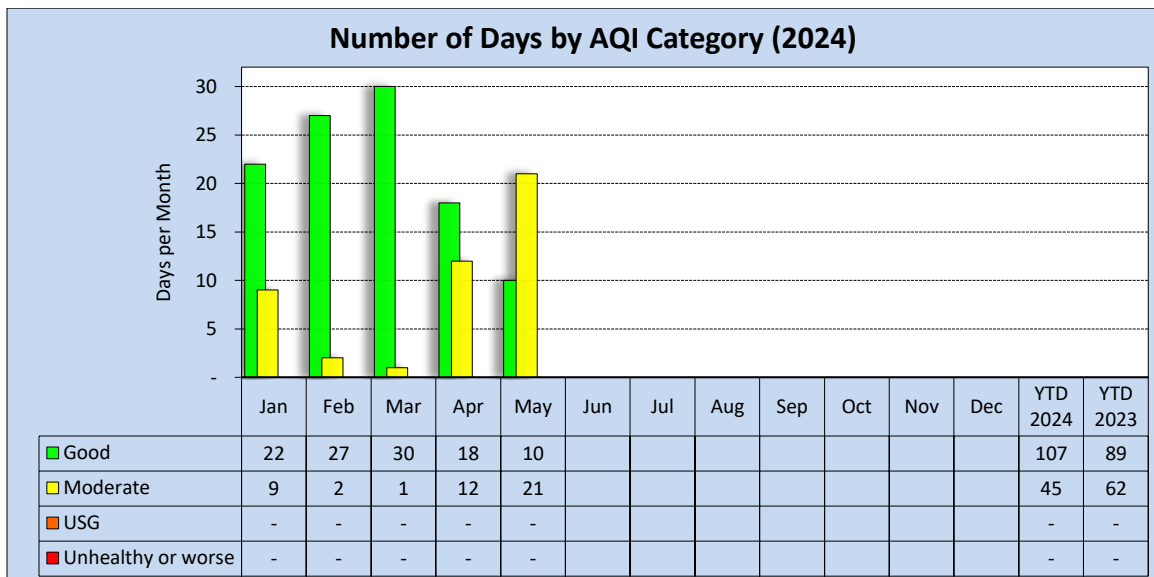
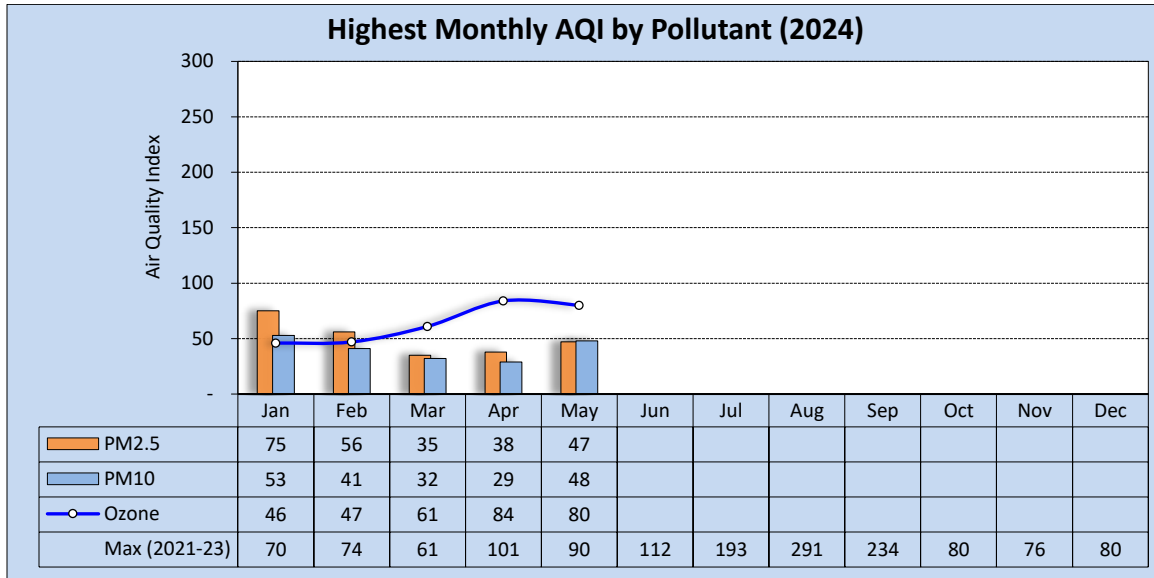
April Newsletter

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/asbo-april-2024-smallbiz.pdf>

Francisco Vega, P.E., MBA
Division Director

2. Divisional Update

- a. Below are two charts detailing the most recent ambient air monitoring data. The top chart indicates the highest AQI by pollutant and includes the highest AQI from the previous three (3) years in the data table for comparison. The bottom chart indicates the number of days by AQI category and includes the previous year to date for comparison.



Ambient air monitoring data in these charts represent midnight to midnight concentrations to illustrate comparisons to the NAAQS. These data are neither fully verified nor validated and should be considered PRELIMINARY. As such, the data should not be used to formulate or support regulation, guidance, or any other governmental or public decision.

3. Program Reports

a. **Monitoring and Planning**

May Air Quality: There were no exceedances of the ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The highest ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ concentrations for the month are listed in the table below.

Pollutant	Concentration	Date(s)	Site(s)	Notes
Ozone (8-hour)	0.064 ppm	5/18	Lemmon Valley/ Spanish Springs	-
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	8.4 µg/m ³	5/18	Sparks	-
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	52 µg/m ³	5/4	Sparks	-

Air Quality Trends Report: The annual Air Quality Trends Report has been completed and is posted on the AQMD website (OurCleanAir.com). The Trends Report describes the six National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) criteria pollutants, their primary sources, and associated health effects. It also outlines the current design values, attainment status, and ten-year trends for each NAAQS pollutant. An emphasis on calendar year 2023 provides an air quality review, an exceedance summary, and air quality index (AQI) summaries. AQM has prepared an annual Trends Report for over 20 years and has monitored ambient air pollution in the Truckee Meadows in some capacity for over 60 years. Due to its usefulness in summarizing ambient air monitoring data, it's now included as a component of the EPA-approved ambient air monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan.

Ambient Air Monitoring Annual Network Plan: Air Monitoring Network Plans are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plan provides the specific location of each monitoring station, citing criteria, monitoring methods and objectives, sampling frequency, pollutants measured at each station, and aerial photographs showing their physical location. It also summarizes network modifications completed over the last 12 months and proposed network modifications over the next 18 months. The County's air monitoring network includes Incline, Lemmon Valley, Reno4, South Reno, Spanish Springs, Sparks, and Toll. One or more of the following pollutants are measured at each site: carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, ozone, sulfur dioxide, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The Draft 2024 Network Plan is available for review and open for public comment on the AQMD website through June 24.

Craig A. Petersen
Supervisor, Monitoring, and Planning

b. Permitting and Compliance

May

Staff reviewed fifty-four (54) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to ensure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements.

In May 2024, Staff conducted fifty-seven (57) stationary source inspections. Staff was assigned ten (10) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately forty-two thousand seventy-six (42,076) square feet and one thousand eighty-five (1,085) linear feet of asbestos-containing materials. Staff received two (2) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, seventeen (17) new construction/dust projects comprised an additional ninety-seven (97) acres of disturbance. Staff documented fifty-two (52) construction site inspections. During the month, enforcement staff responded to nineteen (19) complaints.

Type of Permit	2024		2023	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Renewal of Existing Air Permits	135	502	138	1,079
New Authorities to Construct	3 (New and Major Modifications)	22	2 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	17 (97 acres)	80 (1,094 acres)	20 (220 acres)	193 (2,386 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	27	104	20	242
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	2 (1 replacement)	38 (17 replacements)	3 (2 replacements)	124 (56 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	691 (9 stoves removed)	2,727 (26 stoves removed)	639 (4 stoves removed)	6,495 (57 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	66	305	70	731
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	12	64	16	196



Complaints	2024		2023	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Asbestos	0	6	3	12
Diesel Idling	0	1	0	2
Dust	17	35	11	96
Nuisance Odor	1	6	0	7
Permit to Operate	0	0	0	0
Burn Code	0	1	0	4
General	1	10	0	40
TOTAL	19	59	14	161
Enforcement	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Warnings	14	26	2	26
Notice of Violation	0	17	0	20
TOTAL	14	43	2	46

Joshua C. Restori
 Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance