

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: August 28, 2025**

DATE: August 8, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** – EPA Proposes Repeal of Greenhouse Gas Regulation, Senate Budget Proposal Aims to Preserve Key EPA Programs, June 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

1. Program Update

a. EPA Proposes Repeal of Greenhouse Gas Regulation

On August 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposal to repeal the 2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment Finding, a key scientific and legal foundation that has supported federal climate regulations for the past 16 years. This finding, originally issued in response to a Supreme Court ruling, determined that greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane pose a threat to public health and welfare. It gave EPA the authority to regulate these emissions from cars, trucks, and other sources under the Clean Air Act, including the Biden-Harris Administration's electric vehicle mandate.

EPA's new position is that the Clean Air Act does not authorize greenhouse gas regulation unless the pollutants are immediately toxic or harmful at a local level. If the repeal is finalized, all existing federal GHG rules for vehicles and engines dating back to 2010 would be eliminated. Automakers would no longer need to meet federal greenhouse gas standards or report related emissions data.

Importantly, this proposal does not affect rules for criteria pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx) or particulate matter, which remain covered under separate parts of the law. Eliminating the federal framework for greenhouse gas regulation could shift the burden to state and local agencies. However, EPA's proposal also questions whether states can legally adopt their own greenhouse gas rules without federal backing.

A virtual public hearing will be held August 19-21, and public comments are being accepted through September 15, 2025. This proposed repeal could significantly reshape the national approach to climate policy and air pollution control.



b. Senate Budget Proposal Aims to Preserve Key EPA Programs

On July 24, a Senate subcommittee approved a funding bill that would give the EPA \$8.64 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. This is less than last year, but more than what the House or the President proposed. While overall EPA funding would be reduced, the bill protects many important environmental programs, including those that support clean air and clean water.

The bill maintains level funding of \$235.9 million for State and Local Air Quality Management categorical grants under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act. These grants help local agencies like ours run air quality programs, monitor pollution, address greenhouse gas emissions, and improve conditions in communities facing the greatest environmental health burdens. The funding would be distributed using the same formula as in fiscal year 2015. Targeted Airshed Grants, which support areas with the worst air quality, would see a \$1 million increase. Diesel emissions grants would be reduced by \$30 million, and \$8.5 million would be available for wildfire smoke preparedness through competitive grants. The bill also blocks the proposed shutdown of the EPA's Office of Research and Development, which supports scientific work that informs public health and environmental decisions.



The full Senate will now consider the bill, and final budget decisions will be made by September 30 after negotiating with the House, which is pushing for deeper EPA cuts.

c. June 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter

Please visit the link below to view the June 2025 EPA small business monthly newsletter which highlights environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources, and upcoming 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>.

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

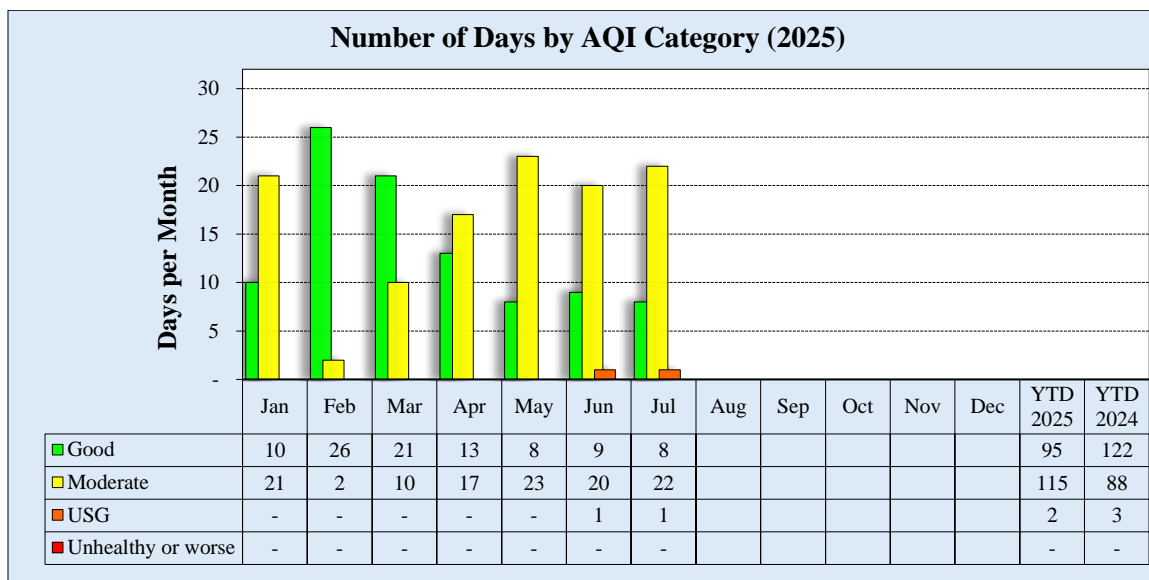
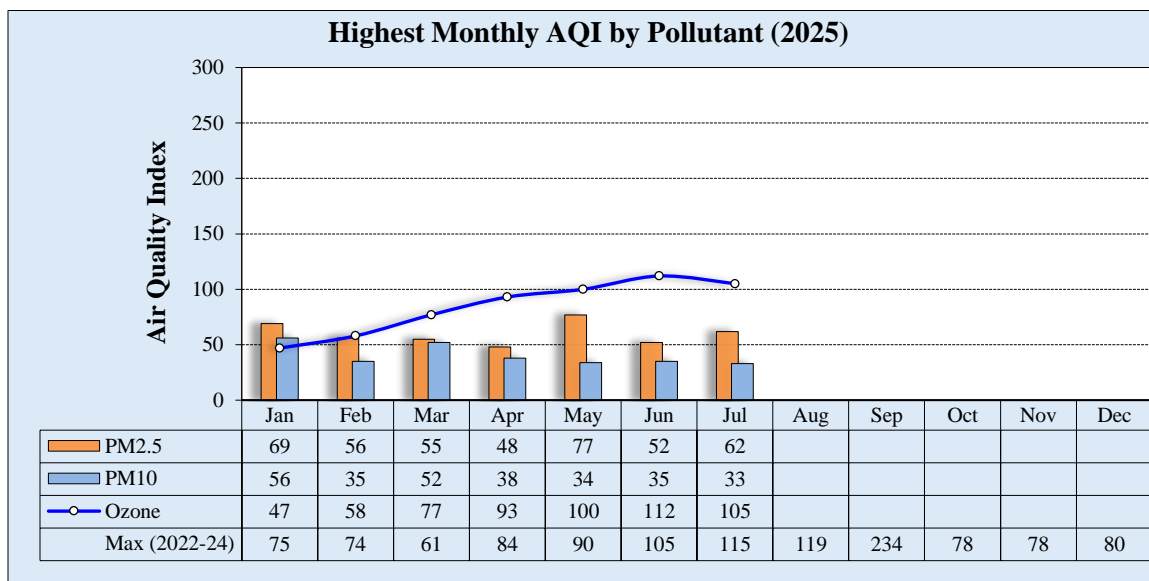
June Newsletter

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-06/asbo-june-2025-smallbiz-bulletin.pdf>

Francisco Vega, P.E., MBA
Division Director

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.

2. Program Reports

a. Monitoring and Planning

July Air Quality: There was one exceedance of the ozone, and no exceedance of the PM₁₀ or 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)	0.072 ppm	7/10	Reno4 South Reno Sparks	Green Fire
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	14.9 µg/m ³	7/11	Sparks	Green Fire
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	36 µg/m ³	7/11	Sparks	Green Fire

Heat and Smoke Project: For a second season, Desert Research Institute (DRI) and NNPH are recruiting Washoe County community members for a research project examining heat and air quality impacts on household health. The research seeks to examine how heat and wildfire smoke impact indoor temperature, air quality, and well-being. When the smoke from large wildfires reaches Washoe County during the hot days of summer and fall, everyone, and especially those without central air conditioning, may have a harder time protecting their health. By partnering with community members to gather temperature, air quality and basic health information, the research will help scientists better understand how to help the public protect themselves from the health impacts of heat and wildfire smoke.



Recruitment has begun for a sample of 20 households to participate in the project, of which up to 10 can be re-enrolled from last season's project. Heat and air quality data, physical and mental health data, and protective action decision-making data corresponding to each household will be collected before and during compound events. All data types will be correlated, analyzed, and summarized at both the individual household and collective household levels and used to inform compound events education and risk communication materials for the community. Visit <https://www.dri.edu/project/heat-wildfire-smoke/> to learn more about the project.

Craig A. Petersen
Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

b. Permitting and Compliance

July

In July 2025, staff reviewed sixty-six (66) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to ensure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements. Of the sixty-six (66) sets of plans assigned in July, sixty-six (66) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the three hundred seventy-five (375) plans reviewed in calendar year 2025, three hundred seventy-two (372) were completed within jurisdictional timeframes.

AQMD 2025 Plan Review				
Month	Plans Received	Avg. Days to Complete	Percent Timely Completions	Untimely Reviews
January	50	1.78	100%	0
February	41	1.9	100%	0
March	61	1.36	100%	0
April	69	1.43	100%	0
May	44	3.93	93%	3
June	44	3.27	100%	0
July	66	2.44	100%	0
August	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-
Total	375	2.44	99%	3

In July 2025, staff conducted forty-eight (48) routine inspections of stationary sources. Staff were assigned three (3) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately twenty-nine thousand nine hundred thirteen (29,913) square feet and twenty (20) linear feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received eleven (11) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were fifteen (15) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional one hundred thirty-three (133) acres of disturbance. Staff documented forty-nine (49) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to seventeen (17) complaints.

Permits and Registrations Processed	2025		2024	
	July	YTD	July	Annual Total
Reissuance of Existing Air Permits	59	424	102	1,069
New Stationary Source Permits	3 (New and Major Modifications)	24	1 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	15 (133 acres)	126 (1,773 acres)	8 (44 acres)	186 (2,411 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	24	163	19	247
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	9 (3 replacements)	40 (17 replacements)	7 (2 replacements)	106 (46 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	749 (4 stoves removed)	4,338 (29 stoves removed)	611 (3 stoves removed)	7,166 (64 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	46	370	61	634
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	14	86	11	154

Complaints	2025		2024	
	July	YTD	July	Annual Total
Asbestos	2	7	0	11
Diesel Idling	0	0	0	2
Dust	6	47	11	121
Nuisance Odor	2	11	1	18
Permit to Operate	0	3	0	0
Burn Code	0	1	1	12
General	7	37	7	47
TOTAL	17	106	20	211
Enforcement	2025		2024	
	July	YTD	July	Annual Total
Warnings	3	27	5	41
Notice of Violations	1	14	0	24
TOTAL	4	41	5	65

Joshua C. Restori
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance