

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: June 25, 2026**

DATE: June 3, 2026

TO: District Board of Health

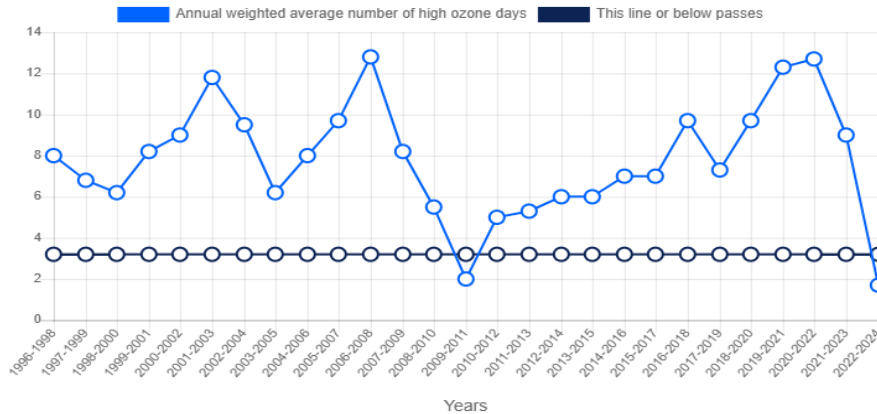
FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** – DBOH Board Member Follow Up on American Lung Association Ozone Data, House Passes the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

1. Program Update

a. DBOH Board Member Follow Up on American Lung Association Ozone Data

During the May 28, 2026, District Board of Health (DBOH) meeting, additional clarification was requested on the lower ozone levels during periods from 2009-2011 and 2022-2024. Specifically, the request centered around further details as to why these periods were lower than the other periods presented.



The American Lung Association’s (ALA) State of the Air report is published annually for a 3-year period ending with the preceding year’s data. ALA has created a grading system for air quality based on a methodology that is different than the one utilized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or any other health agency. Failing grades in the ALA State of the Air report do not coincide with EPA’s National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Regarding the specific question raised by the DBOH, during the 2009-2011 period, The Great Recession resulted in widespread emissions reductions. These emissions reductions were well documented by multiple agencies across several research papers. A study written by Tong D et al. documented a nearly 20% reduction in ozone precursor emissions. This resulted in an observed decrease in monitored ozone values of over 5 parts per billion in

some study areas¹. The study is cited by EPA in their Health and Environmental Research Online database to highlight this advancement in understanding health and environmental effects of air pollution.

During 2022-2024, the graph appears to have a steep decline in emissions as many years with significant wildfire impacts begin to drop off of the trend period. With the lack of significant wildfire emissions in the 2022-2024 period, monitored design values dropped significantly. This 3-year period aligns with previously monitored ozone design values as seen in AQMD's Washoe County Air Quality Trends Reports.

For additional information, please refer to the information below.

¹ Tong, D., L. Pan, W. Chen, L. Lamsal, P. Lee, Y. Tang, H. Kim, S. Kondragunta, and I. Stajner (2016), Impact of the 2008 Global Recession on air quality over the United States: Implications for surface ozone levels from changes in NO_x emissions, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 43, 9280–9288, doi:10.1002/2016GL069885.

<https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/air-quality/air-quality-reports-and-data.php#trends>

<https://www.lung.org/research/sota>

b. House Passes the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act

On May 13, 2026, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (H.R. 1346). The legislation is designed to permanently allow the nationwide sale of E15 gasoline, a fuel blend containing 15% ethanol, throughout the entire year. Under the Clean Air Act, E15 sales have historically been restricted during the summer driving season, from June 1 to September 15, to comply with volatility regulations intended to limit urban smog. To keep the blend on the market during these months, the federal government has previously relied on temporary, seasonal emergency waivers or state-by-state exemptions. This legislation creates a uniform federal standard by permanently extending the same volatility waiver currently granted to E10 fuel to all blends containing up to 15% ethanol.

The legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 218–203. Following its passage, the bill was sent to the U.S. Senate, where it has been formally read and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. For the bill to become law, it must clear the committee review process, be brought to the Senate floor for a full vote. If passed by both legislative chambers in identical form, the bill will then move to the president's desk to be signed into law or vetoed.

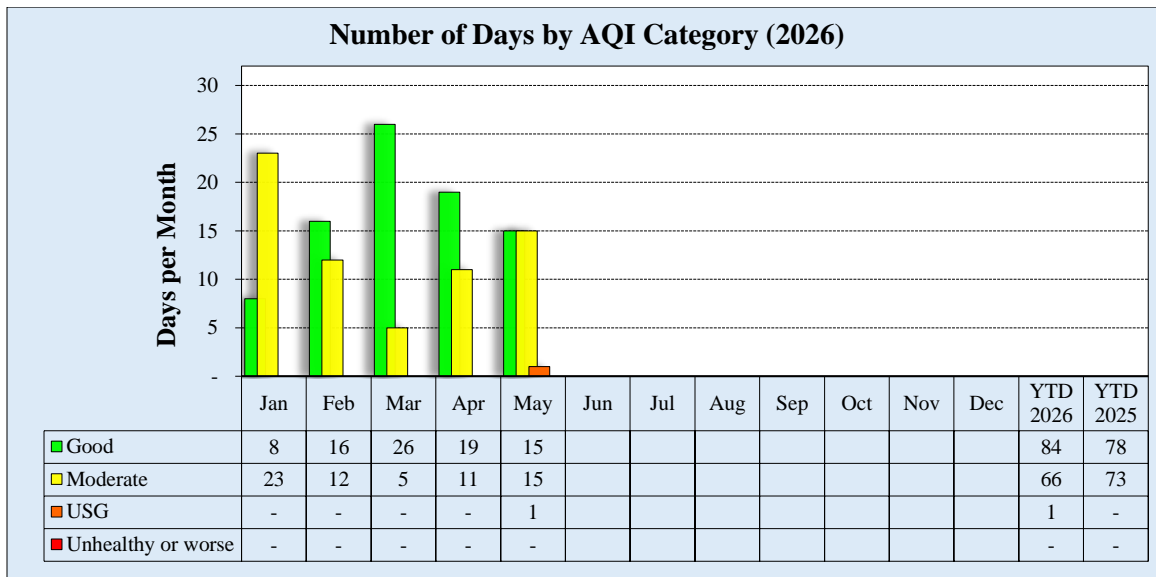
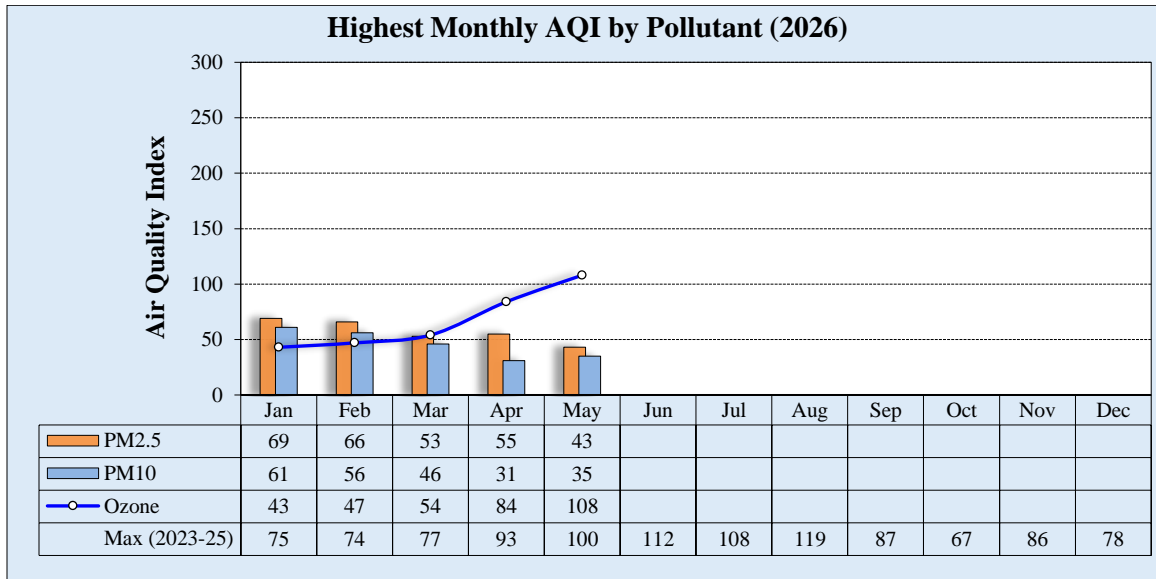
For more information about the waivers, please visit the EPA webpage below.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1346>

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 Air Quality Index (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.

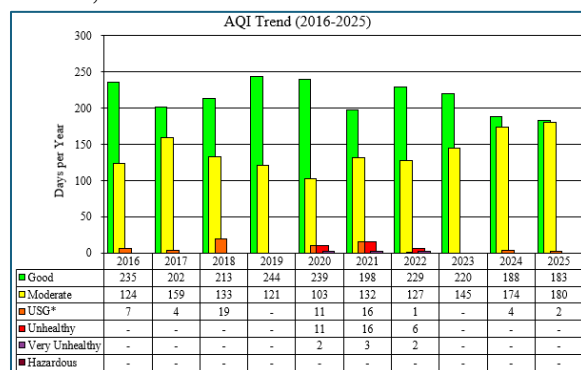
2. Program Reports

a. Monitoring and Planning

May Air Quality: There was one exceedance of the ozone and no exceedances 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)	0.073 ppm	5/11	Lemmon Valley Spanish Springs	-
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	7.7 µg/m ³	5/02	Sparks	-
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	38 µg/m ³	5/12	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 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 2025 provides an air quality review, an exceedance summary, and 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.



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, siting criteria, monitoring methods and objectives, frequency of sampling, 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 eight locations within the county: Incline, Lemmon Valley, Reno4, South Reno, Spanish Springs, Sparks, Toll, and Verdi. 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 2026 Network Plan is currently available for review and open for public comment on the AQMD website through June 21.

Craig A. Petersen

Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning



b. Permitting and Compliance

May Permitting Activity

In May 2026, staff reviewed seventy-one (71) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County Building Departments to ensure compliance with Air Quality requirements. Year-to-date, staff have reviewed two hundred seventy nine (279) plans in calendar year 2026, with ninety-nine (99) percent completed within the required timeframes.

AQMD 2026 Plan Review				
Month	Plans Received	Avg. Days to Complete	Percent Timely Completions	Untimely Reviews
January	44	3.2	100%	0
February	48	3.125	98%	1
March	55	3.4	98%	1
April	61	3.3	100%	0
May	71	3.1	100%	0
June	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
January	-	-	-	-
Total	279	3.2	99%	2

In May 2026, staff issued two (2) Permit to Operate (PTO) renewals for existing stationary source facilities in Washoe County. One (1) of the two (2) renewals was processed within the required 180-day timeframe following receipt of complete applications. Three (3) PTOs were due to expire on May 1st, with one (1) of the facilities submitting a timely renewal application between 270 and 180 days prior to expiration.

During the month, nineteen (19) Dust Control Permits were issued, authorizing an additional two hundred seventy-one (271) acres of soil disturbance.

Staff processed a total of six hundred seventy-eight (678) registrations associated with the Wood-burning Device Program, including Certificates of Compliance, Dealers Affidavits of Sale, and Notices of Exemption. Processing these registrations resulted in the removal of eight (8) uncertified wood-burning devices from properties.

To meet the requirements of the Asbestos Program, staff reviewed applications and surveys for the issuance of forty-eight (48) Acknowledgements of Asbestos Assessment for



construction projects across Washoe County. Staff also reviewed and issued eighteen (18) Asbestos Demolition and Renovation notifications.

Permits and Registrations Processed	2026		2025	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
PTO Renewal Issued	2	13	No Data	No Data
PTC Issued	0	7	5	48
Dust Control Permit	19 (271 acres)	68 (725 acres)	27 (390 acres)	196 (2,969 acres)
Wood-burning COC	26 (3 removals)	123 (24 removals)	20	271
Wood-burning DAS	5 (2 replacements)	18 (8 replacements)	4 (2 replacements)	83 (47 replacements)
Wood-burning NOE	647 (3 removals)	2,935 (15 removals)	703 (3 removals)	7,618
Asbestos Assessments	48	260	44	658
Asbestos Notifications	18	55	11	141

May Compliance Activity

In May 2026, staff conducted fifty-three (53) assigned PTO inspections and two (2) PTC approval inspections at stationary source facilities. Staff were assigned twelve (12) new asbestos abatement projects, involving the removal of approximately fifty-four thousand two hundred sixty-three (54,263) square feet and sixty-eight (68) cubic feet of asbestos-containing materials. In addition, staff received six (6) facility demolition projects to monitor. During the month, staff documented forty-six (46) Dust Control Permit inspections.

Compliance Inspections	2026		2025	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Permit to Operate	53	181	41	445
Permit to Construct	2	12	2	30
Dust Control Permit	46	217	45	542
Wood-burning Device	3	15	3	47
Asbestos Notification	18	84	37	285

During the month, staff responded to twenty-eight (28) complaints filed with the AQMD.

Complaints	2026		2025	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Asbestos	0	4	0	13
Diesel Idling	0	1	0	0
Dust	19	43	5	89
Nuisance Odor	2	20	4	23
Permit to Operate	0	3	0	4
Burn Code	0	7	0	3
General	7	41	2	67
TOTAL	28	119	11	199
Enforcement	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Warnings	2	10	10	39
Notice of Violations	0	4	3	20
TOTAL	2	14	13	59

Joshua C. Restori
 Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance