

**Air Quality Management Division  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: July 24, 2025**

**DATE:** June 26, 2025

**TO:** District Board of Health

**FROM:** Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director  
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**SUBJECT:** **Air Quality Management - EPA Announces Sunset of the Advance Program**  
After 13 Years, EPA Issues FY2026 Proposed Budget Justification, June 2025  
EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

## 1. Program Update

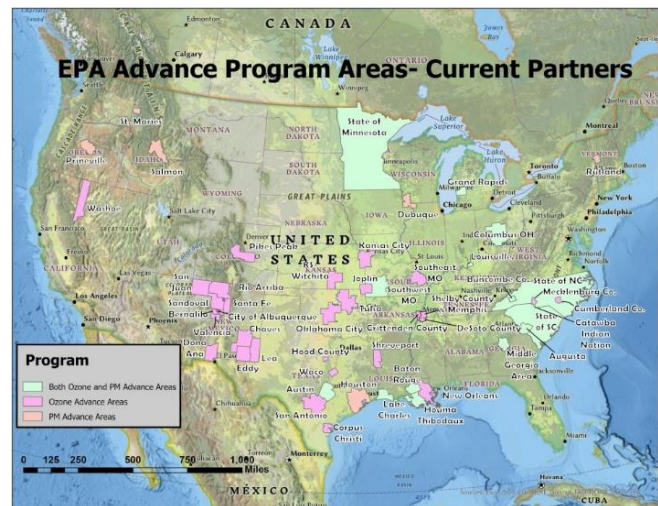
### a. **EPA Announces Sunset of the Advance Program After 13 Years**

Since its inception in 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Advance Program has served as a key initiative to help communities achieve and maintain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter (PM) and ozone. The program established a collaborative network of partners and stakeholders focused on proactive air quality improvements beyond regulatory requirements.

Now, after more than a decade of progress, the EPA has announced that the Advance Program will officially conclude on June 12, 2025. The decision comes after the program successfully met its objective of supporting local, state, and tribal efforts to implement and maintain air quality standards for ozone and PM.

Advance partners, ranging from local air agencies and state environmental departments to tribal governments and community organizations, have collectively implemented more than 600 air quality projects. These initiatives span a wide variety of sectors and strategies, including:

- Mobile source emissions reduction programs (e.g., vehicle retrofits and anti-idling policies)
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts



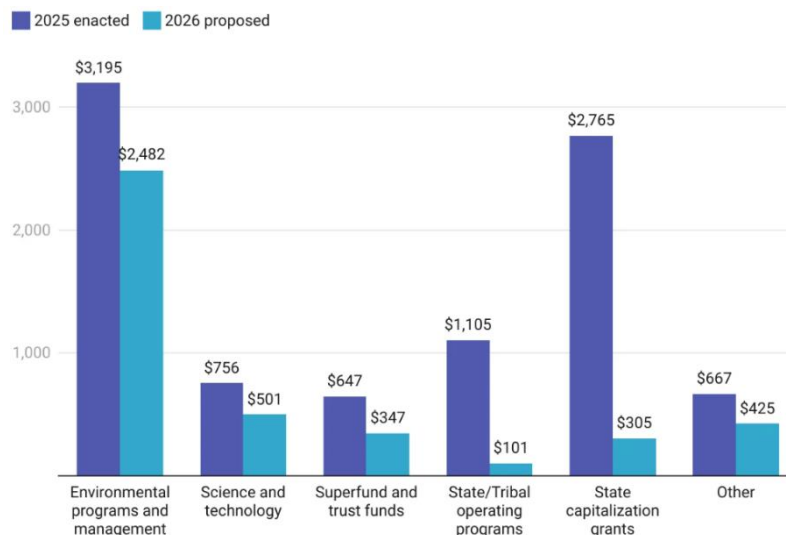
- Urban heat island mitigation and green infrastructure
- Residential wood smoke reduction campaigns
- Stationary source controls
- Community outreach, education, and awareness programs

These efforts demonstrate how locally led, voluntary initiatives can contribute significantly to national air quality improvement goals.

Although the Advance Program is winding down, the EPA remains committed to working with partners to ensure continued air quality improvements under the Clean Air Act. The EPA will maintain its Advance Program website as a publicly accessible resource.

**b. EPA Issues FY2026 Proposed Budget Justification**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released the justification for its fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget. The justification is the narrative that accompanies EPA's FY2026 "budget in brief" and gives further details about specific allocations to programs and grants. For FY2026, EPA is proposing a 54% agency-wide budget reduction to \$4.16 billion and elimination of key grant programs that directly support state and local air quality agencies. The FY2026 budget justification proposes complete elimination of several categorical grant programs that have historically provided direct financial support to state and local air quality agencies. The State & Local Air Quality Management Categorical Grant Program,



including Section 103 and 105 grants, has been eliminated entirely in the justification.

The justification reads, "In FY2026, the Agency will empower state and local governments to achieve environmental protection at a local level, encouraging more efficient and innovative ways to meet their responsibilities while

EPA focuses on meeting core statutory requirements to protect human health and the environment where there is a unique federal role. The Budget recognizes that EPA has invested hundreds of billions of dollars over several decades building state and local capacity and many programs are mature or have accomplished their purpose."

As was presented in the May Air Quality Management Division Director Staff Report, for FY2025, the Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) received \$756,000 as part of the Clean Air Act Section 105 Grant to carry out Clean Air Act related activities. In addition,

the AQMD received approximately \$60,000 to conduct activities associated with the monitoring of PM2.5 within our region. These funds have historically been utilized to maintain the region's Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network and essential planning activities associated with the Clean Air Act. Any impact on these critical financial resources could:

- Force closure of air monitoring sites, leaving many parts of our region without air quality data. These monitoring resources have played a critical role recently in addressing public health risks during wildfire events;
- Reduce or eliminate successful emission reduction programs; and
- Potentially reverse air quality gains made over the past decades.

For further information regarding the FY2026 EPA proposed budget justification, please visit the EPA website at the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/cj>

**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

**SMALLBIZ@EPA**

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

upcoming events. Contact [asbo@epa.gov](mailto: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>.

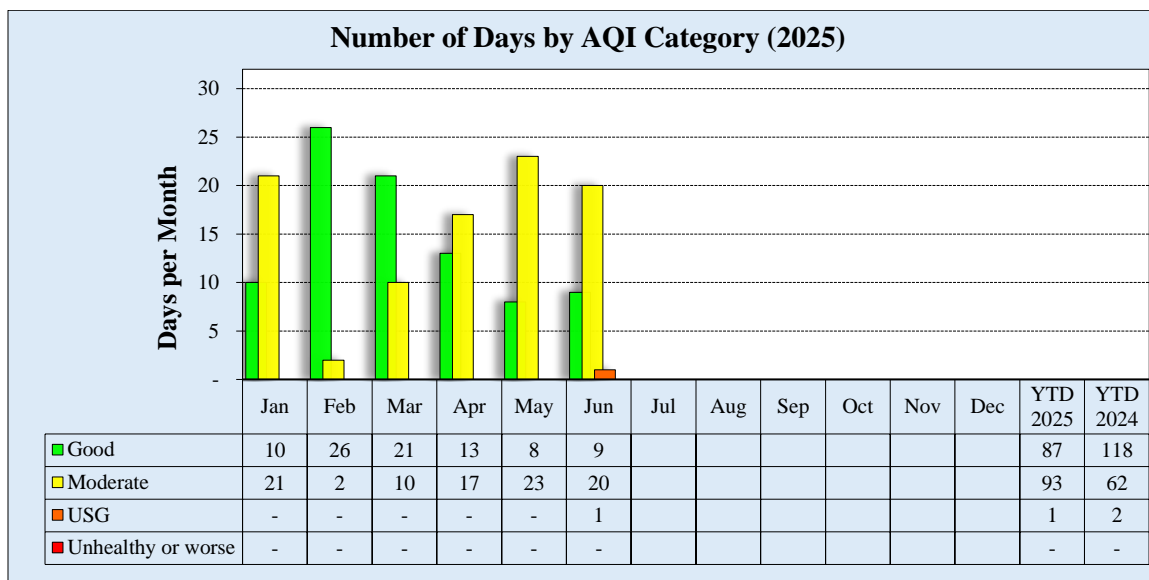
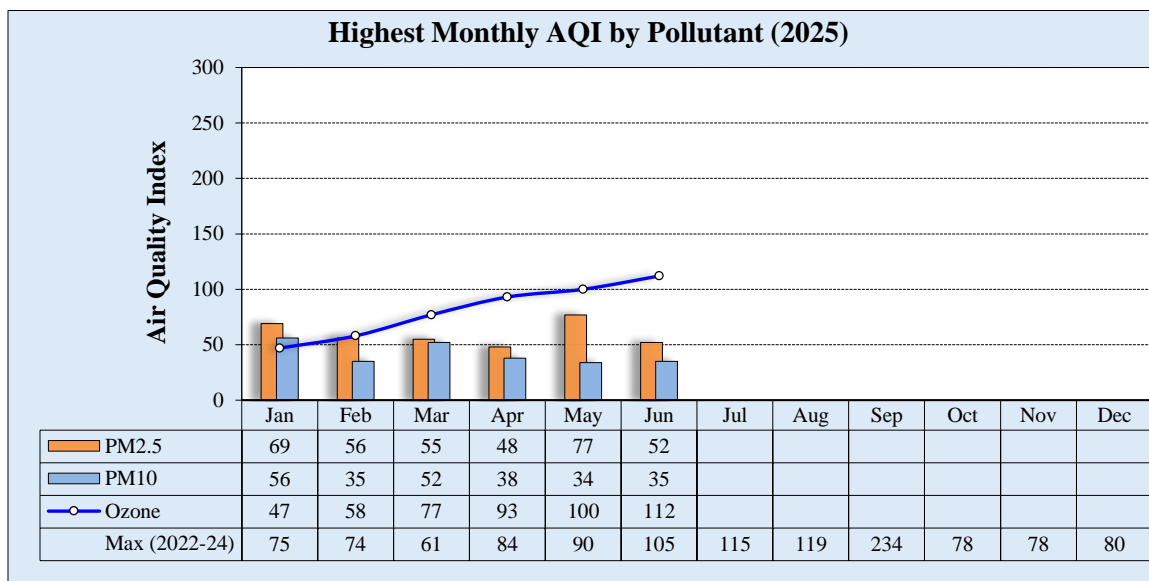
June Newsletter

<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

June Air Quality: There was one exceedance of the ozone, and no exceedance of the PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The highest ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations for the month are listed in the table below.

Pollutant	Concentration	Date(s)	Site(s)	Notes
Ozone (8-hour)	0.074 ppm	6/19	Lemmon Valley Toll	Overnight Ozone Exceedance
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (24-hour)	9.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	6/10	Spanish Springs	Marie Fire
PM <sub>10</sub> (24-hour)	38 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	6/20	Spanish Springs	High Winds

Ozone Season: Ozone is a summertime pollutant of concern in Washoe County. While ozone in the upper atmosphere protects us from UV radiation, ground-level ozone – formed by reactions between nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sunlight – is harmful to health and a major component of smog. Major sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs include vehicle exhaust, industrial facilities, power plants, gasoline vapors, and solvents. Breathing ozone can cause chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and worsen conditions like asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. It can also reduce lung function, inflame lung tissue, and may cause permanent lung damage with repeated exposure. For more information on how you can help reduce ozone pollution, visit AQMD's "[nOzone](#)" program page.



Be Smoke Smart: Smoke and air pollution concentrations can change rapidly during wildfires. PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations can worsen and reach harmful levels in just a few hours. AQMD developed the "[Keep it Clean, Be Smoke Smart](#)" campaign to provide current wildfire and smoke information for the community. "Be Smoke Smart" is a great resource to answer basic questions about wildfires such as: Where is the fire? Where is the smoke going to be? What is the current air quality? What should I do to protect myself? AQMD partners with the National Weather Service and local media to educate the public on how to make good decisions when wildfire smoke affects Northern Nevada.



Craig A. Petersen  
Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

## b. Permitting and Compliance

### June

In June 2025, staff reviewed forty-four (44) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements. Of the forty-four (44) sets of plans assigned in June, forty-four (44) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the three hundred nine (309) plans reviewed in calendar year 2025, three hundred six (306) 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	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>2.445</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>3</b>

In June 2025, staff conducted thirty-seven (37) routine inspections of stationary sources. Staff were assigned five (5) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately forty-nine thousand nine hundred ten (49,910) square feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received seven (7) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were twenty-four (24) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional one hundred eighty-five (185) acres of disturbance. Staff documented forty-seven (47) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to twenty-five (25) complaints.

Permits and Registrations Processed	2025		2024	
	June	YTD	June	Annual Total
Reissuance of Existing Air Permits	87	365	106	1,069
New Stationary Source Permits	1 (New and Major Modifications)	21	6 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	24 (185 acres)	111 (1,640 acres)	16 (183 acres)	186 (2,411 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	32	139	22	247
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	3 (2 replacements)	31 (14 replacements)	6 (1 replacements)	106 (46 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	749 (5 stoves removed)	3,589 (25 stoves removed)	631 (9 stoves removed)	7,166 (64 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	65	324	50	634
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	12	72	13	154

Complaints	2025		2024	
	June	YTD	June	Annual Total
Asbestos	4	5	1	11
Diesel Idling	0	0	0	2
Dust	15	41	11	121
Nuisance Odor	1	9	2	18
Permit to Operate	0	3	0	0
Burn Code	0	1	0	12
General	5	30	1	47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>211</b>
Enforcement	2025		2024	
	June	YTD	June	Annual Total
Warnings	0	24	0	41
Notice of Violations	0	13	1	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>65</b>

Joshua C. Restori  
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance