

**Air Quality Management Division  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: March 27, 2025**

**DATE:** March 6, 2025

**TO:** District Board of Health

**FROM:** Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director  
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**SUBJECT:** **Air Quality Management** - Administration Plans to Reduce EPA Budget by 65 Percent, December 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletters, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

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**1. Program Update**

**a. Administration Plans to Reduce EPA Budget by 65 Percent**

During a Cabinet meeting on February 26, 2025, President Donald Trump indicated that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin plans to implement major workforce reductions at the agency. In a subsequent interview Administrator Zeldin clarified that the 65 percent reduction referred to a combination of budget and workforce cuts, not strictly to staff. In the interview: however, Zeldin continued that “I think that the EPA can save even more than 65% of our budget year over year.”

In follow up to the Cabinet meeting, the White House Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released guidance for EPA and other agencies to implement major reductions in force (RIF) by September. The OPM guidance directs agencies to “focus on the maximum elimination of functions that are not statutorily mandated while driving the highest-quality, most efficient delivery of their statutorily-



required functions.” The memo also calls for agencies to submit plans that “consolidate areas of the agency organization chart that are duplicative; consolidate management layers where unnecessary layers exist; seek reductions in components and positions that are non-critical; implement technological solutions that automate routine tasks while enabling staff to focus on higher-value activities; close and/or consolidate regional field offices to the extent consistent with efficient service delivery; and maximally reduce the use of outside consultants and

contractors.” These initial plans are due March 13, 2025, and have a focus on all areas of an agency deemed non-essential based on an assessment of those roles deemed necessary under contingency plans for a government shutdown. EPA’s 2024 shutdown contingency plan identified 906 staff as essential.

For more information about these EOs, please visit the link below.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025>

**b. December 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletters**

Please visit the link below to view the December 2024 EPA small business monthly newsletters which highlights environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources,



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

and 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>.

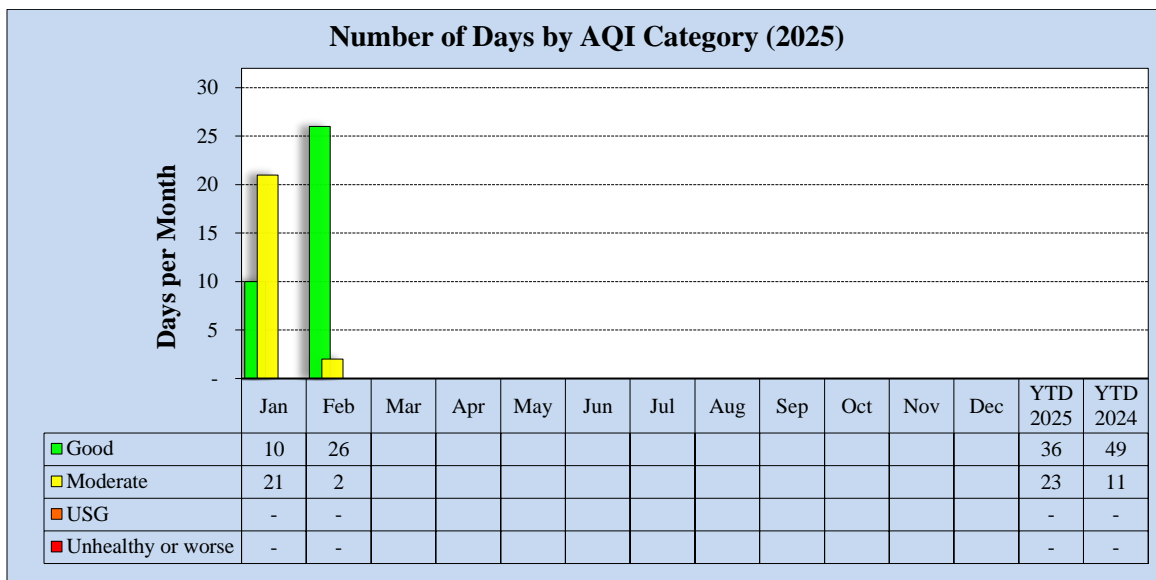
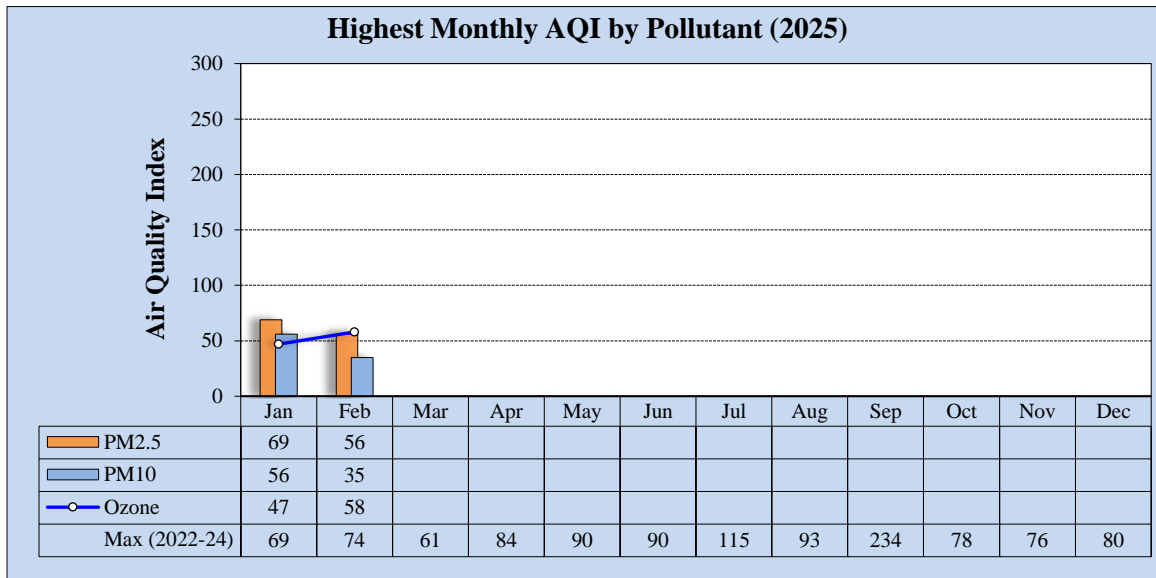
December Newsletters

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-12/asbo-december-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.

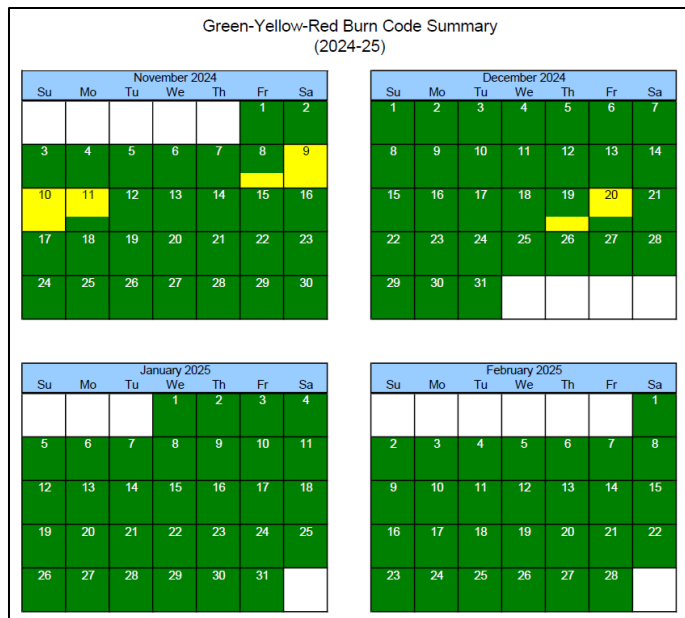
### 3. Program Reports

#### a. **Monitoring and Planning**

January and February Air Quality: There were no exceedances of the ozone, 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<br>(8-hour)              | 0.051 ppm<br>0.057 ppm                           | 1/20<br>2/25 | Incline         | -     |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub><br>(24-hour) | 18.6 µg/m <sup>3</sup><br>11.7 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 1/27<br>2/15 | Sparks          | -     |
| PM <sub>10</sub><br>(24-hour)  | 66 µg/m <sup>3</sup><br>38 µg/m <sup>3</sup>     | 1/25<br>2/27 | Reno4<br>Sparks | -     |

2024-2025 Burn Code Season: The most recent season is summarized in the calendar to the right. In total, 116 Greens, four Yellows, and zero Reds were issued during the 2024-2025 Burn Code season. In comparison to the last five seasons, this season had one more Yellow than average (five-year average of three Yellows per year). This season continued the streak of zero Red Burn Codes since December 30, 2017, when the last Red was issued. It also continues our long streak without any wintertime exceedances. The last wintertime exceedance was recorded on December 31, 2013, at the Sparks monitoring station. AQMD regulations, New Source Performance Standards for wood stoves, and high compliance rates with the Burn Code have led to these clean wintertime conditions. Burn Code and air quality data will be compiled in the Air Quality Trends report which is scheduled to be accepted at the June DBOH meeting.



Craig A. Petersen  
 Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

**b. Permitting and Compliance**

**February**

In February 2025, staff reviewed forty-one (41) 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-one (41) sets of plans assigned in February, forty-one (41) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the ninety-one (91) plans reviewed in calendar year 2025, ninety-one (91) were completed per jurisdictional timeframes.

| <b>AQMD 2025 Plan Review</b> |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Month</b>                 | <b>Plans Received</b> | <b>Avg. Days to Complete</b> | <b>Percent Timely Completions</b> | <b>Untimely Reviews</b> |
| <b>January</b>               | 50                    | 1.78                         | 100%                              | 0                       |
| <b>February</b>              | 41                    | 1.9                          | 100%                              | 0                       |
| <b>March</b>                 |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>April</b>                 |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>May</b>                   |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>June</b>                  |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>July</b>                  |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>August</b>                |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>September</b>             |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>October</b>               |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>November</b>              |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>December</b>              |                       |                              |                                   |                         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>91</b>             | <b>1.84</b>                  | <b>100%</b>                       | <b>0</b>                |

In February 2025, staff conducted thirty-five (35) stationary source inspections and three (3) initial compliance inspections. Staff were assigned seven (7) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately eleven thousand six hundred seventy eight (11,678) square feet and nine hundred (900) linear feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received three (3) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were nineteen (19) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional six hundred forty-one (641) acres of disturbance. Staff documented forty (40) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to five (5) complaints.



| Permits and Registrations Processed       | 2025                               |                           | 2024                               |                              |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|   | February                           | YTD                       | February                           | Annual Total                 |
| <b>Reissuance of Existing Air Permits</b> | 46                                 | 101                       | 101                                | 1,069                        |
| <b>New Stationary Source Permits</b>      | 5<br>(New and Major Modifications) | 8                         | 7<br>(New and Major Modifications) | 42                           |
| <b>Dust Control Permits</b>               | 19<br>(641 acres)                  | 33<br>(823 acres)         | 19<br>(450 acres)                  | 186<br>(2,411 acres)         |
| <b>Wood Stove (WS) Certificates</b>       | 21                                 | 43                        | 21                                 | 247                          |
| <b>WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale</b>       | 7<br>(2 replacements)              | 15<br>(4 replacements)    | 8<br>(3 replacements)              | 106<br>(46 replacements)     |
| <b>WS Notice of Exemptions</b>            | 502<br>(2 stoves removed)          | 464<br>(5 stoves removed) | 399<br>(6 stoves removed)          | 7,166<br>(64 stoves removed) |
| <b>Asbestos Assessments</b>               | 35                                 | 74                        | 57                                 | 634                          |
| <b>Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)</b> | 10                                 | 22                        | 8                                  | 154                          |

| Complaints                  | 2025     |           | 2024      |              |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                             | February | YTD       | February  | Annual Total |
| <b>Asbestos</b>             | 0        | 0         | 2         | 11           |
| <b>Diesel Idling</b>        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 2            |
| <b>Dust</b>                 | 1        | 5         | 2         | 121          |
| <b>Nuisance Odor</b>        | 0        | 2         | 0         | 18           |
| <b>Permit to Operate</b>    | 0        | 2         | 0         | 0            |
| <b>Burn Code</b>            | 0        | 0         | 1         | 12           |
| <b>General</b>              | 4        | 12        | 4         | 47           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>5</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>211</b>   |
| Enforcement                 | February | YTD       | February  | Annual Total |
| <b>Warnings</b>             | 3        | 8         | 4         | 41           |
| <b>Notice of Violations</b> | 2        | 3         | 3         | 24           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>5</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>65</b>    |

Joshua C. Restori  
 Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance