

**Air Quality Management Division  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: September 26, 2024**

**DATE:** August 5, 2024  
**TO:** District Board of Health  
**FROM:** Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director  
775-784-7211; [fvega@nmpd.org](mailto:fvega@nmpd.org)  
**SUBJECT:** **Air Quality Management - EPA and Forest Service Release Updated AirNow Fire and Smoke Map, July 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance**

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**1. Program Update**

**a. EPA and Forest Service Release Updated AirNow Fire and Smoke Map**

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service released an updated version of the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map to provide more information during wildfire events.

“As millions of Americans have experienced, wildfire smoke can travel for hundreds of miles, including from Canada, affecting people anywhere in the U.S.,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Joseph Goffman. “The updated AirNow Fire and Smoke Map makes even more information available about wildfire smoke and air quality information anyone across the country can use to reduce their exposure and protect their health.”



The Fire and Smoke Map has been updated to load more quickly and includes information not available in the previous versions, such as:

- Air quality monitoring information on coarse particle pollution and ozone, both of which can increase because of wildfire smoke.
- More information on individual wildland fires, including the type of fire and level of fire activity, when available.
- Information from low-cost fine particle sensors from areas previously not covered.

The Fire and Smoke Map can be viewed on the AirNow website or by selecting the smoke icon on the bottom right of the AirNow smartphone app. To view the map in Spanish or

to select a modified AQI color scale for users with certain color vision deficiencies, click the settings icon at the top right corner of the map.

To download the AirNow app:

Apple App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/epa-airnow/id467653238>

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.saic.airnow>

In addition to the resources available on AirNow, residents of Washoe County are encouraged to visit the “Be Smoke Smart” page (<https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/air-quality/be-smoke-smart.php>) for critical information on how to protect ones health during wildfire events.

For additional information on AirNow and the Fire and Smoke Map, please visit <https://www.airnow.gov/>

**b. July 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter**

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



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>.

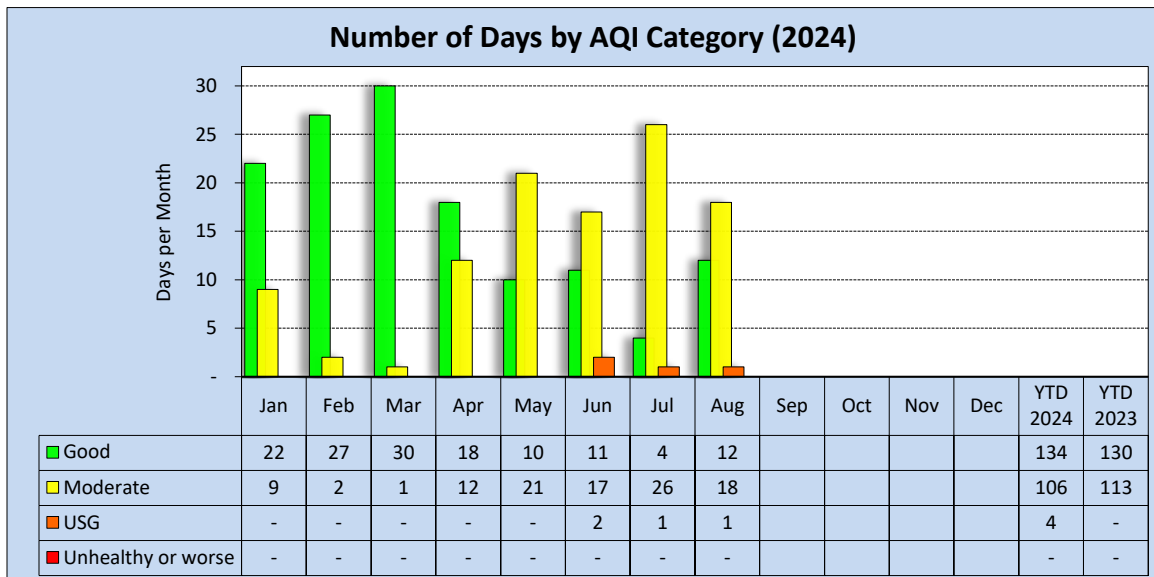
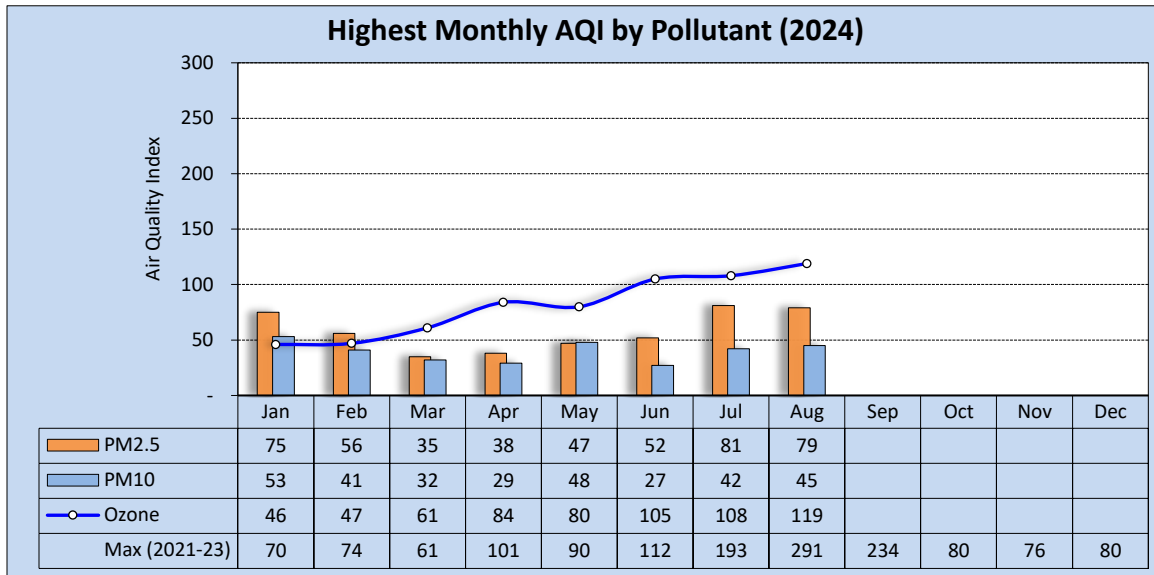
July Newsletter

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-07/july-smallbizepa-bulletin-draft.docx>

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**

August Air Quality: There was one exceedance of the ozone and no exceedance of the PM<sub>10</sub> and 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)	0.076 ppm	8/1	Reno4	Fire influence due to Park Fire
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (24-hour)	24.0 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	8/12	Reno4	Smoke from Gold Ranch Fire
PM <sub>10</sub> (24-hour)	49 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	8/23	Spanish Springs	-

Funding Opportunities: On March 18, 2024, the AQMD received two invitations from EPA to apply for noncompetitive direct grant funding under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The first is to provide resources to support the sustainability of air quality monitoring networks. AQMD assessed its monitoring network needs, developed a budget and workplan as part of the application process, and was successful in obtaining an award of \$662,488. This award will primarily be used to replace and/or enhance air monitoring equipment in AQMD's existing monitoring network. The second is to support the deployment, integration, and operation of air quality sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities in which AQMD was successful in receiving \$30,000. This award will help fund a black carbon monitoring study in disadvantaged communities around the I-80/I-580 interchange.

Urban Heat Island Study: The Reno/Sparks area was selected to be part of an urban heat mapping campaign to map the warmest parts of Reno, Sparks, and adjacent portions of Washoe County. The Nevada State Climatologist led the team of a dozen agencies including the University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, City of Reno, City of Sparks, NNPH, Washoe County. The data collection part of the campaign was completed on Saturday, August 10, where volunteers drove 20 pre-determined routes in the morning, afternoon, and evening with temperature sensors affixed to their vehicles. All of the routes were completed in optimal weather conditions (hot, clear skies, low winds, negligible smoke). One use of the data will be to support disadvantaged communities, where temperatures are often the highest and air quality is the worst.

NOAA Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaigns: All Locations, 2017-2024



Craig A. Petersen

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Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning



**b. Permitting and Compliance**

**August**

Staff reviewed thirty-three (33) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements.

In August 2024, staff conducted forty-three (43) stationary source inspections and three (3) initial compliance inspection. Staff were assigned twelve (12) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately eleven thousand two hundred twenty-six (11,226) square feet and one hundred ten (110) linear feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received four (4) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were eight (17) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional one hundred forty (140) acres of disturbance. Staff documented fifty-four (54) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to thirty-one (31) complaints.

Type of Permit	2024		2023	
	August	YTD	August	Annual Total
<b>Renewal of Existing Air Permits</b>	73	783	76	1,079
<b>New Authorities to Construct</b>	4 (New and Major Modifications)	33	9 (New and Major Modifications)	42
<b>Dust Control Permits</b>	17 (140 acres)	121 (1,461 acres)	18 (184 acres)	193 (2,386 acres)
<b>Wood Stove (WS) Certificates</b>	13	158	25	242
<b>WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale</b>	9 (5 replacement)	60 (25 replacements)	17 (9 replacements)	124 (56 replacements)
<b>WS Notice of Exemptions</b>	571 (6 stoves removed)	4,540 (41 stoves removed)	610 (7 stoves removed)	6,495 (57 stoves removed)
<b>Asbestos Assessments</b>	58	474	66	731
<b>Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)</b>	16	104	13	196



Complaints	2024		2023	
	August	YTD	August	Annual Total
Asbestos	1	8	2	12
Diesel Idling	0	1	0	2
Dust	21	78	8	96
Nuisance Odor	1	10	0	7
Permit to Operate	0	0	0	0
Burn Code	2	4	0	4
General	6	24	4	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>161</b>
Enforcement	August	YTD	August	Annual Total
Warnings	3	34	3	26
Notice of Violations	1	19	1	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>

Joshua C. Restori  
 Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance