

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

DATE: June 18, 2026

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: Acceptance of the “Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report (2016-2025).”

SUMMARY

The Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) operates and maintains an ambient air monitoring program to determine compliance with health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This annual report summarizes the previous year’s ambient air monitoring data and provides a long-term trend for each pollutant.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Air Quality Trends Report is updated and presented annually to the District Board of Health (DBOH) for acceptance. The most recent action occurred on June 26, 2025, with the acceptance of the “Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends (2015-2024)” report.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes health-based NAAQS for six criteria air pollutants including Ozone and Particulate Matter. Each year, the AQMD prepares this report, which summarizes the previous year’s monitoring data. Because of its usefulness of summarizing ambient air monitoring data, it’s now included as part of the recently EPA-approved ambient air monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan.

This Air Quality Trends Report summarizes 2025 and the ten-year trend for each pollutant. The full report is also available at the AQMD website (OurCleanAir.com). The following is a summary of last year’s Air Quality Index (AQI) levels and the AQI trend for the previous ten years.

A Review of 2025

January and February of 2025 began with a prolonged streak of Green Burn Codes. The Burn Code season ended with a 70-day Green Burn Code Streak. The 2024-2025 Burn Code season ended with 117 Green, 3 Yellow, and 0 Red Burn Codes issued. The highest 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration in the 2024-2025 Burn Code season was recorded on December 19, 2024 at the Sparks SLAMS with a value of 23.5 µg/m³ (78 AQI - Moderate).

The first air quality event of the year occurred in May. The Reno-Sparks area experienced smoke from a prescribed fire in Dog Valley on May 7, 2025. At the Reno4 NCore station, the 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration was measured at 23.1 µg/m³ (77 AQI - Moderate). One-hour PM_{2.5} concentrations at the Reno4 station peaked at 96 µg/m³. Land managers halted the burn and resumed the burn when weather conditions improved.

During the summer, the Reno/Sparks experienced two ozone NAAQS exceedances. The first ozone exceedance occurred on June 19, 2025 with an 8-hour concentration of 0.074 ppm (112 AQI - Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups). The second ozone exceedance occurred on July 10, 2025 with an 8-hour concentration of 0.072 ppm (105 AQI - Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups).

Wildfire impacts in the summer of 2025 were minimal. On June 10, there was a small wildfire about a mile from AQMD's Spanish Springs SLAMS. The 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration at Spanish Springs was 9.4 µg/m³ (52 AQI - Moderate).

On July 1, another wildfire started locally. The Barron Fire started on Rattlesnake Mountain and grew to nearly 300 acres before being extinguished by fire agencies and heavy rains. AQMD monitors only saw brief impacts with the Sparks SLAMS measuring a 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration of 9.4 µg/m³ (52 AQI - Moderate).



Figure 3: Barron Fire in Reno, NV on July 1, 2025, Jason Bean, RGJ

The last significant wildfire impact of the year came with the Green Fire in California mixed with smoke from various fires across the Pacific Northwest in July. Smoke from these fires caused several Moderate AQI days from July 10 to July 14, with the highest 24-hour concentration of 23 µg/m³ (77 AQI - Moderate) recorded on July 14 by the Sparks SLAMS PM_{2.5} monitor.

The 2025-2026 Burn Code Season continued the streak of Green Burn Codes until the end of the year. Winter weather remained consistently warmer than average with active weather continually preventing pollution from accumulating.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the DBOH accepts the “Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends (2015-2024)” report.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the DBOH concur with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be “Move to accept the “Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends (2015-2024)” report”.