

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: May 22, 2025**

DATE: April 25, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

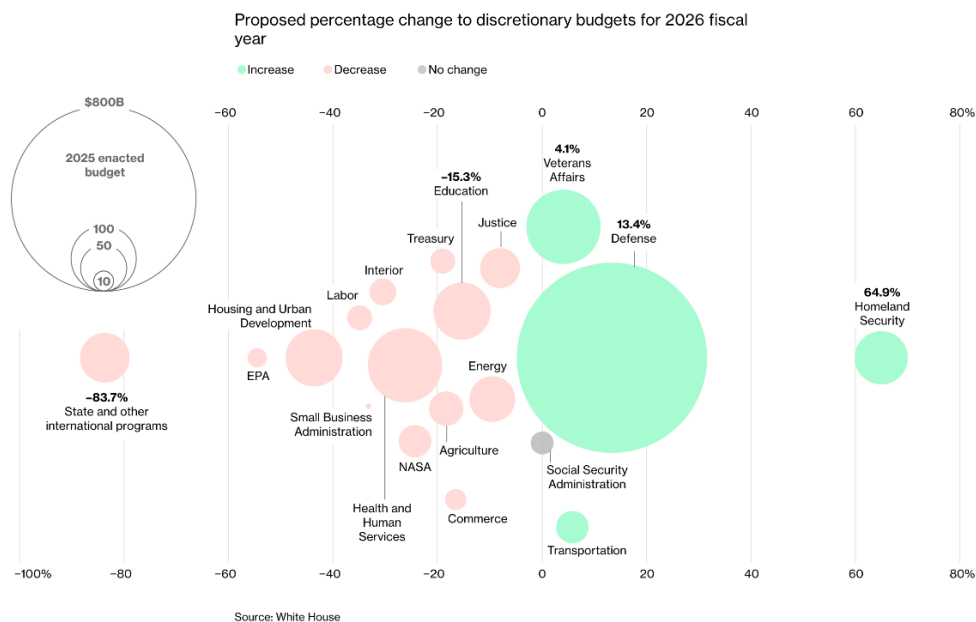
FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
775-784-7211; fvega@nnph.org

SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** - Administration Releases Budget Proposal for FY2026, March 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

1. Program Update

a. Administration Releases Budget Proposal for FY2026

The Presidential Administration has released an abbreviated budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which includes deep cuts to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and large proposed cuts to categorical grants that fund state and local programs, potentially including air quality programs. The budget proposal does not include the line-by-line detail of a full budget proposal, but includes an overall 22.6 percent cut to all Federal non-defense spending, and a proposed 54.5 percent cut to EPA's overall budget, from \$9.1 billion to \$4.2 billion. Cuts to EPA would include a \$1 billion funding reduction to categorical grants to state and local agencies. These categorical grants to state and local agencies include not only air quality programs, but the entire portfolio of environmental protection across media, including safe drinking water, brownfields, recycling, sewer replacement, and other programs.



In the President's budget proposal, the justification for the cut to categorical grants is as follows: "EPA's Categorical Grant programs have become a crutch for States at the expense of taxpayers, many of whom receive no benefit from these grants. With a majority of these statutes having been on the books for several decades, States and local governments should be capable and empowered to fund their own programs in order to comply with the law. As such, the Budget includes the elimination of 16 categorical grants, and maintains funding at 2025 enacted levels for Tribes. These reductions promote federalism by allowing States to achieve primary enforcement authority for these programs, while also encouraging States to innovate and find more efficient ways to meet their responsibilities under delegated authority."

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. Because the budget does not include line-by-line details, it is not clear if these grants would be reduced or cut as part of the proposed budget.

The president is required by law to send lawmakers a budget proposal each year. From here, Congress will take this proposal and work to create and pass a budget for FY2026 before the September 30, 2025, deadline.

For the full budget proposal and additional information, please visit the link below.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf>

b. March 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter

Please visit the link below to view the March 2025 EPA small business monthly newsletters which highlights environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources, and upcoming events. Contact 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>.

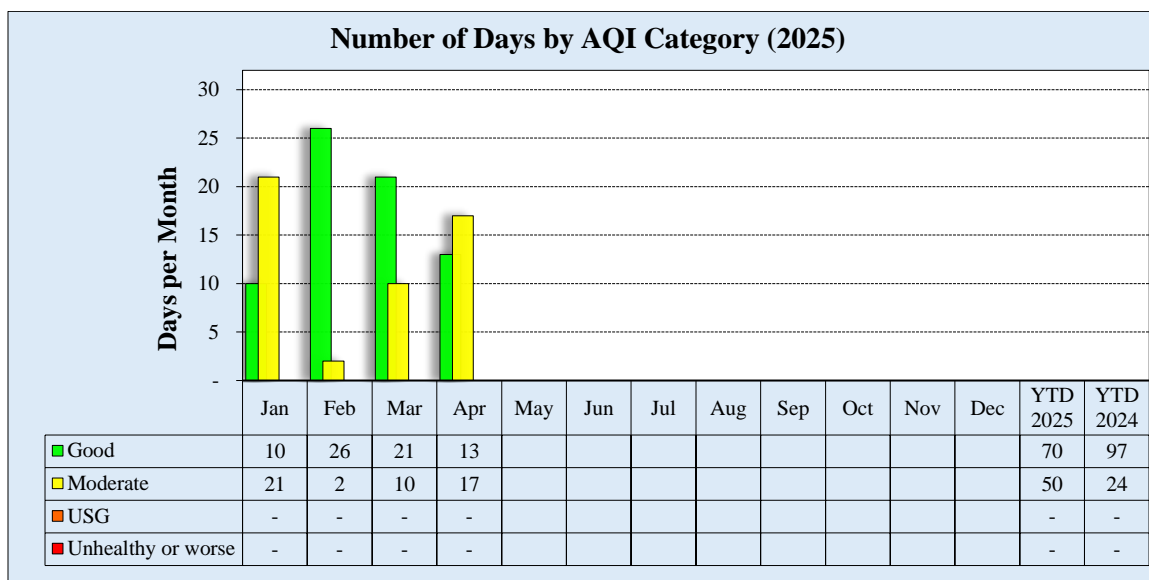
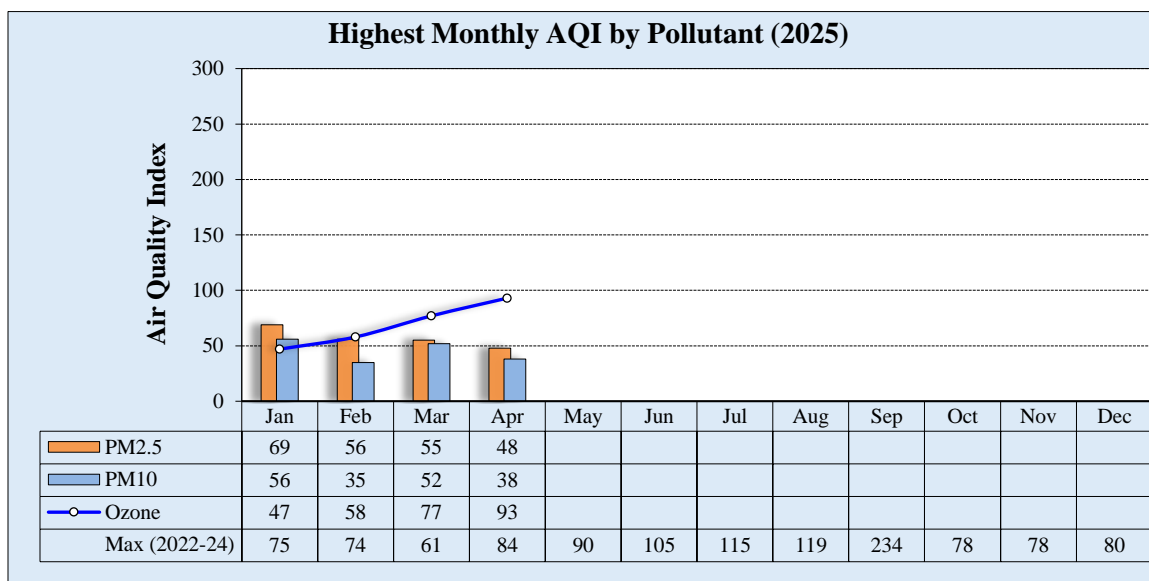


March Newsletter
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-03/linked-asbo-march-2025-smallbiz.pdf>

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

April Air Quality: There were no exceedances of the ozone, 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)	0.068 ppm	4/23	Lemmon Valley	-
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	8.7 µg/m ³	4/10	Sparks	-
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	30 µg/m ³	4/22	Sparks	-

Data Certification: Air monitoring data for calendar year 2024 was certified on April 29, 2025. Certification means the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can make regulatory decisions based on the data such as NAAQS “attainment” and “nonattainment” designations. Data completeness percentages for all monitors and for all criteria pollutants for the entire year were 91% and above. Portions of Washoe County are officially violating the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS. Wildfire smoke events in 2022 contributed to the violations. The Clean Air Act provides a path to exclude these “Exceptional Events” from regulatory decisions. EPA will be providing direction to AQMD on which, if any “Exceptional Events” should be further documented.

Quality System Approval: Per Federal regulations, AQMD must develop a quality system for its ambient air monitoring program that is described in a Quality Management Plan (QMP) and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The QMP outlines an organization's quality system including structure, responsibilities, and environmental data operations. The QAPP outlines how AQMD will manage data quality, control measurement uncertainty for environmental data operations, and includes standard operating procedures for all monitors and monitoring activities. Both the QMP and QAPP must be reviewed annually, and documented and approved by EPA's Quality Assurance Branch every five years. AQMD recently completed the five-year submittal of both plans to EPA, receiving approval of the QAPP on March 25, 2025, and the QMP on April 18, 2025. Both plans are available on the AQMD website at [OurCleanAir.com](https://www.aqmd.com/our-clean-air).

Craig A. Petersen
Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

b. Permitting and Compliance

April

In April 2025, staff reviewed sixty-nine (69) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements. Of the sixty-nine (69) sets of plans assigned in April, sixty-nine (69) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the two hundred twenty-one (221) plans reviewed in calendar year 2025, two hundred twenty-one (221) 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				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	221	1.87	100%	0

In April 2025, staff conducted forty-four (44) routine and one (1) initial compliance inspection of stationary sources. Staff were assigned seven (7) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately thirteen thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (13,999) square feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received seven (7) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were thirteen (13) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional one hundred twenty-seven (127) acres of disturbance. Staff documented forty-three (43) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to fourteen (14) complaints.

Permits and Registrations Processed	2025		2024	
	April	YTD	April	Annual Total
Reissuance of Existing Air Permits	55	218	95	1,069
New Stationary Source Permits	1 (New and Major Modifications)	14	6 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	13 (127 acres)	60 (1,065 acres)	17 (221 acres)	186 (2,411 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	19	87	23	247
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	4 (3 replacements)	24 (10 replacements)	4 (2 replacements)	106 (46 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	672 (6 stoves removed)	2,137 (17 stoves removed)	585 (4 stoves removed)	7,166 (64 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	78	215	86	634
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	14	49	10	154

Complaints	2025		2024	
	April	YTD	April	Annual Total
Asbestos	1	1	1	11
Diesel Idling	0	0	1	2
Dust	2	21	4	121
Nuisance Odor	2	4	5	18
Permit to Operate	0	3	0	0
Burn Code	1	1	0	12
General	8	23	2	47
TOTAL	14	53	13	211
Enforcement	2025		2024	
	April	YTD	April	Annual Total
Warnings	2	14	5	41
Notice of Violations	0	10	1	24
TOTAL	2	24	6	65

Joshua C. Restori
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance