

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: June 26, 2025**

DATE: June 4, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

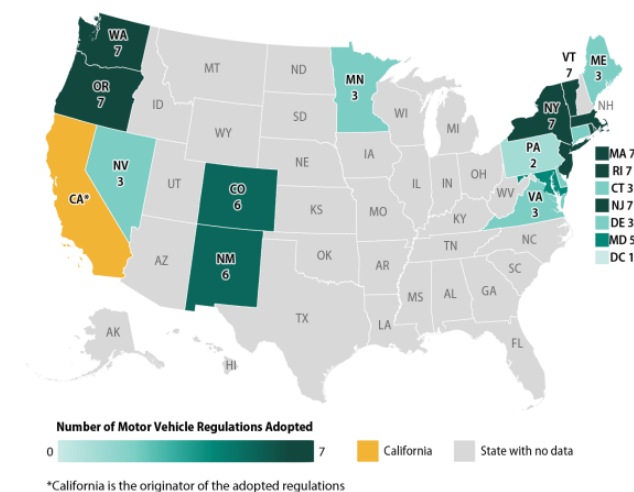
FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** - Congress Disapproves California Waivers for Vehicle Standards, March 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

1. Program Update

a. Congress Disapproves California Waivers for Vehicle Standards

In May, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives voted on three Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions to disapprove waivers previously granted to California to establish its Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II), Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT), and Low-NOx Heavy Duty Truck Omnibus rules. These rules are designed to reduce tailpipe emissions from light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles, with a particular focus on the freight industry.



With the CRA resolutions headed to the President's desk for signature, California and the 17 states that have adopted its light-duty vehicle standards, along with the 10 states that have adopted its heavy-duty vehicle standards under CAA Section 177, face significant regulatory uncertainty.

Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II): The ACC II establishes vehicle emission standards that are necessary to comply with federal air quality standards and curb health-harming vehicle pollution

for residents. California has severe problems meeting the federal ozone air quality standards, and reducing vehicle pollution is essential since vehicles are the largest source of ozone precursors in the State. Twelve other states, including Nevada and the District of Columbia, have adopted the program under the authority of the Clean Air Act.

Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT): The ACT waiver requires manufacturers to increasingly sell a certain number of zero-emission trucks and buses, ramping up gradually over time to reach 40-

75% sales requirement for zero-emission trucks and buses in 2035. Ten other states have adopted the program as well.

Heavy-Duty low-NOx Omnibus (HDO): The HDO program helps to cut smog-forming nitrogen oxides from heavy-duty vehicles by setting air pollution emissions standards (eventually requiring a 90% cut in NOx emissions from model year 2027 engines), improving testing requirements for engines, and extending engine warranties. Nine other states have adopted the program as well.

As for how this impacts Washoe County, while the region is currently designated attainment for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), recent data shows that ozone design values have been at or exceeding the health-based standard. On-road motor vehicles, including heavy-duty trucks, represent the largest source of NOx emissions in Washoe County. The Health District joined EPA's Ozone Advance program in 2016 to improve ozone levels and avoid a nonattainment designation. Reducing air quality impacts from on-road motor vehicles, including heavy-duty trucks, is one of five goals in the Health District's Ozone Advance Path Forward. Freight/goods movement by heavy-duty trucks is a major factor in Northern Nevada's economy. Reno/Sparks is home to many warehouses and distribution centers that generate heavy-duty truck trips. Just east of Reno/Sparks is the world's largest industrial center (Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center), which also generates heavy-duty truck trips. In addition, Interstate 80 is the primary transportation corridor for goods moving east from the Port of Oakland in California, generating even more heavy-duty truck trips through the Reno/Sparks area. The AQMD has permitting authority for only a very small portion of the county's NOx inventory and NOx reductions from sources subject to AQMD permits will be expensive and limit economic development.

For more information and insight into this action, please visit the link below.

<https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2025/05/up-in-the-air-congress-nullifies-clean-air-act-waivers-for-california>

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>.

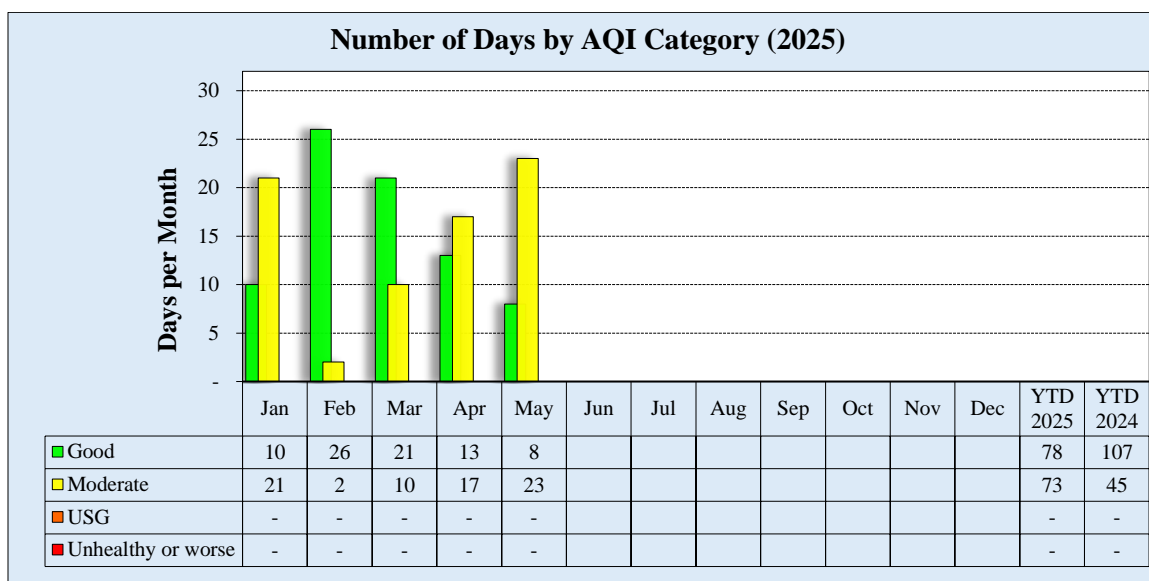
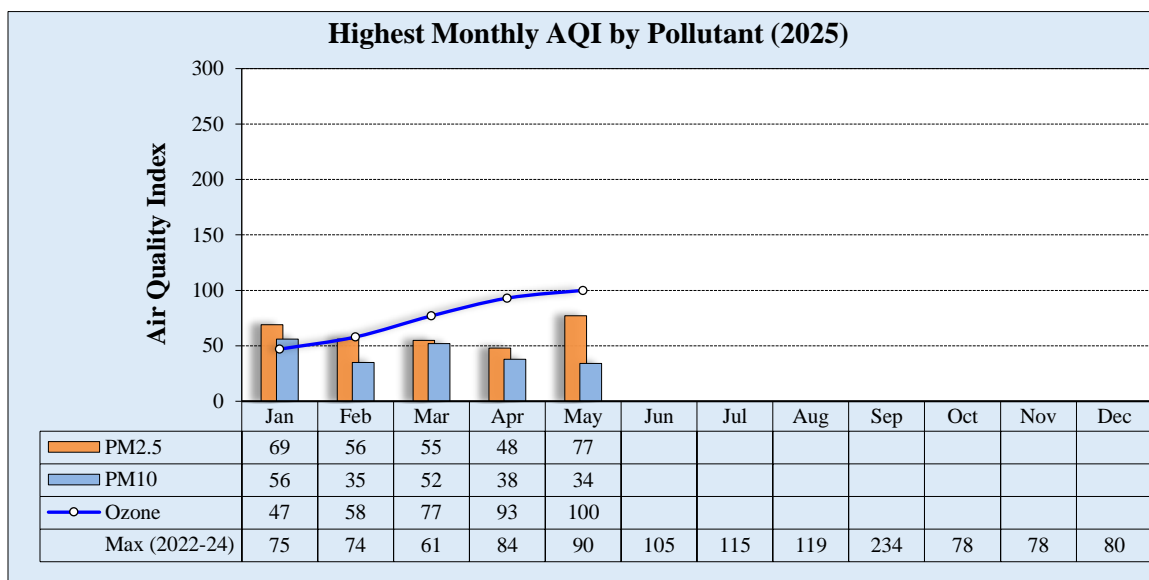
March Newsletter

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

Francisco Vega, P.E., MBA
Division Director

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**

May 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)	0.070 ppm	5/10	South Reno	-
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	23.1 µg/m ³	5/7	Reno4	-
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	37 µg/m ³	5/12	Toll	-

Ambient Air Monitoring Annual Network Plan: Air Monitoring Network Plans are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plan provides the specific location of each monitoring station, siting criteria, monitoring methods and objectives, frequency of sampling, pollutants measured at each station, and aerial photographs showing their physical location. It also summarizes network modifications completed over the last 12 months and proposed network modifications over the next 18 months. The County's air monitoring network includes seven locations within the county: Incline, Lemmon Valley, Reno4, South Reno, Spanish Springs, Sparks, and Toll. One or more of the following pollutants are measured at each site: carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, ozone, sulfur dioxide, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The Draft 2025 Network Plan is currently available for review and open for public comment on the AQMD website through June 22.

Ambient Air Monitoring Network Assessment: Air Monitoring Network Assessments are also required by the EPA. The assessment is conducted every five years to determine if the air monitoring network meets the objectives defined in 40 CFR Part 58. This includes whether new sites are needed, existing sites are no longer needed, and where new technologies are appropriate for incorporation in the ambient air monitoring network. The assessment also contains population trends, current attainment status, and a monitoring network history. Many forms of analysis are conducted during the assessment including, number of parameters monitored, trends impact, measured concentrations, deviation from the NAAQS, inter-site correlation, area served, and population served. Suggested modifications from this year's assessment were to discontinue monitoring at the South Reno monitoring site and initiate monitoring at a new station in Verdi. The Draft 2025 Ambient Air Monitoring Assessment is currently available for review and open for public comment on the AQMD website through June 22.

Craig A. Petersen
Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

b. Permitting and Compliance

May

In May 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 May, forty-one (41) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the two hundred sixty-five (265) plans reviewed in calendar year 2025, two hundred sixty-two (262) 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				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	265	2.28	99%	3

In May 2025, staff conducted forty-one (41) routine and two (2) initial compliance inspection of stationary sources. Staff were assigned nine (9) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately forty-four thousand nine hundred sixty-nine (44,969) square feet and four hundred twenty (420) linear feet of asbestos containing materials. Staff received two (2) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, there were twenty-seven (27) new construction/dust projects comprising an additional three hundred ninety (390) acres of disturbance. Staff documented forty-five (45) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to eleven (11) complaints.

Permits and Registrations Processed	2025		2024	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Reissuance of Existing Air Permits	60	278	135	1,069
New Stationary Source Permits	5 (New and Major Modifications)	20	3 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	27 (390 acres)	87 (1,455 acres)	17 (97 acres)	186 (2,411 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	20	107	27	247
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	4 (2 replacements)	28 (12 replacements)	2 (1 replacements)	106 (46 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	703 (3 stoves removed)	2,840 (20 stoves removed)	691 (9 stoves removed)	7,166 (64 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	44	259	66	634
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	11	60	12	154

Complaints	2025		2024	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Asbestos	0	1	0	11
Diesel Idling	0	0	0	2
Dust	5	26	17	121
Nuisance Odor	4	8	1	18
Permit to Operate	0	3	0	0
Burn Code	0	1	0	12
General	2	25	1	47
TOTAL	11	64	19	211
Enforcement	2025		2024	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Warnings	10	24	14	41
Notice of Violations	3	13	0	24
TOTAL	13	37	14	65

Joshua C. Restori
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance