

2014-23 Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report

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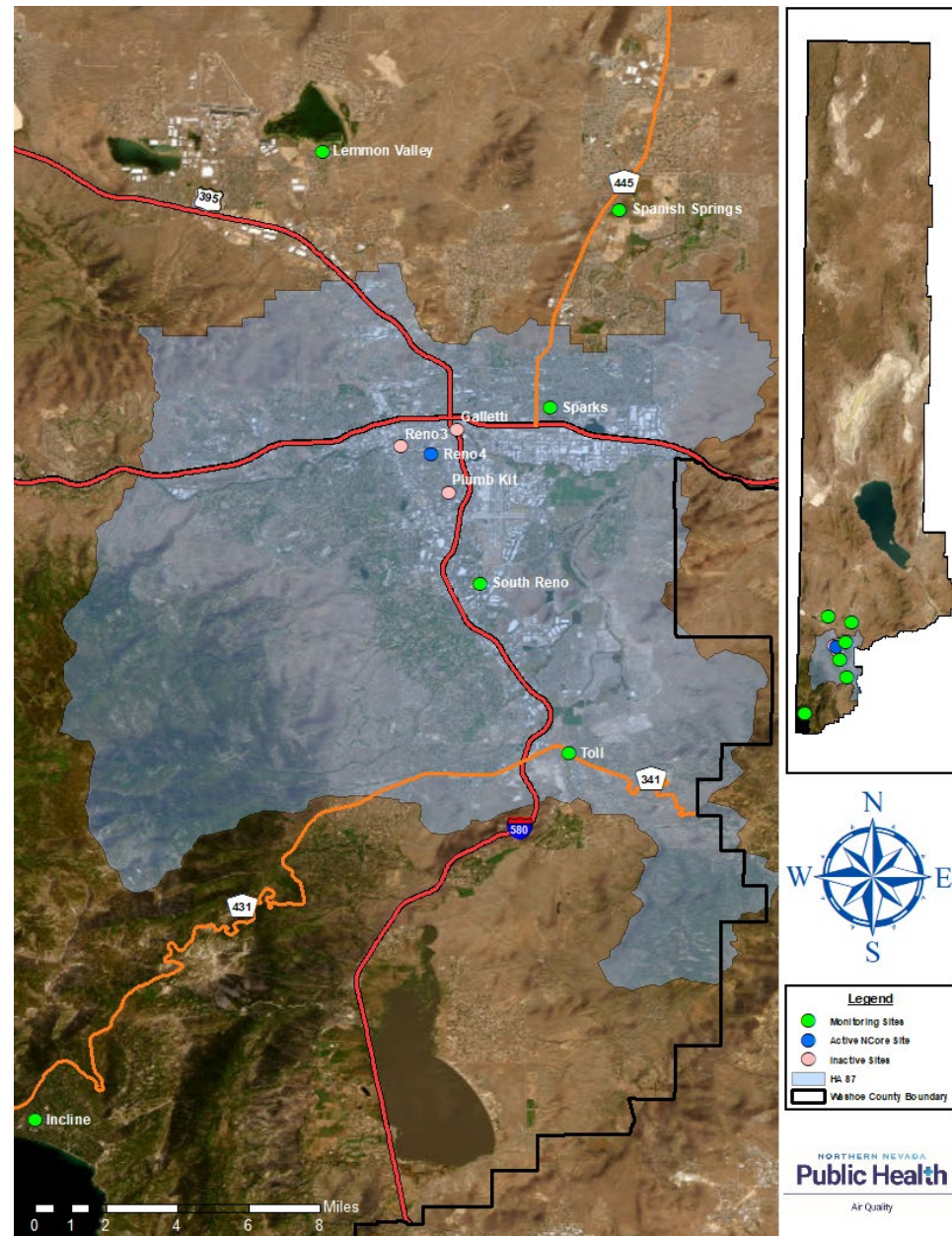
NNPH - AQMD

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

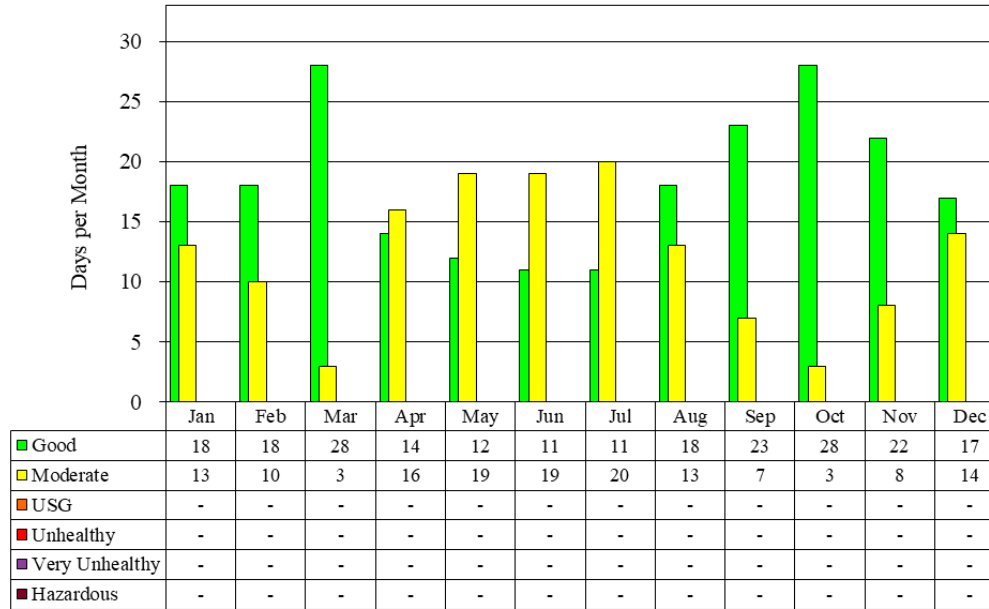
- The Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment.
- Currently, there are six criteria air pollutants.
 - Five of those six are monitored every hour of every day in Washoe County.

Background

- The Annual Trends Report is an ambient air monitoring project assessment report used to satisfy the requirements of the federally approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- It has been published by AQMD every year since 1989.
- Details ambient air quality data and information for criteria air pollutants over the last year and trends in the data over the last 10 years.



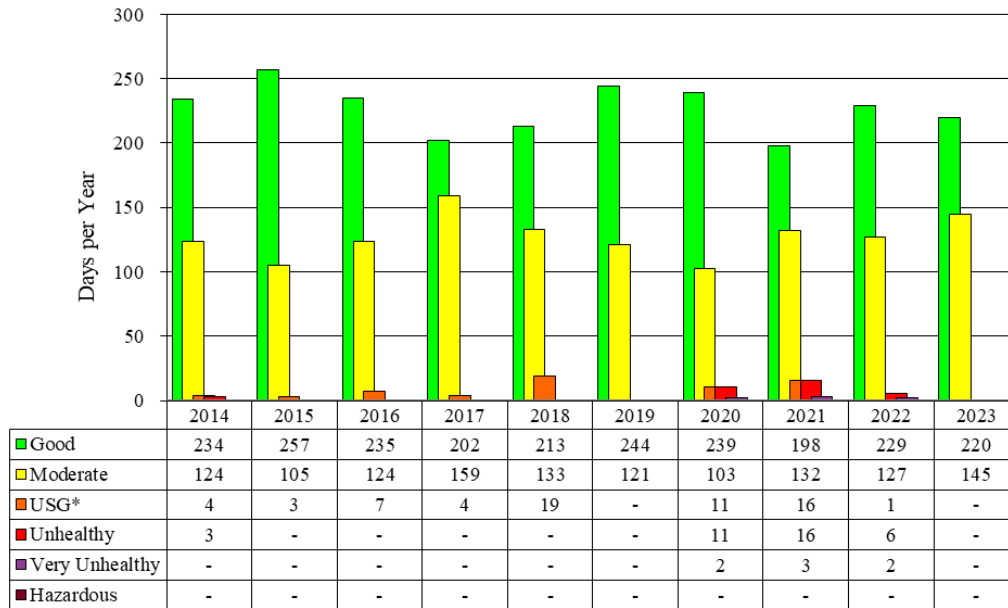
Air Quality Index Monthly Summary for 2023



- In 2023, NNPH AQMD recorded zero days at USG AQI or above. The last time AQMD recorded zero days at or above USG AQI was 2019.
- AQMD issued a Stage 1 Air Quality Emergency Episode on July 13 with forecasted ozone AQI to exceed USG. Hot, stagnant conditions contributed to increased ozone AQI. Proactive outreach helped keep ozone AQI in the moderate range.



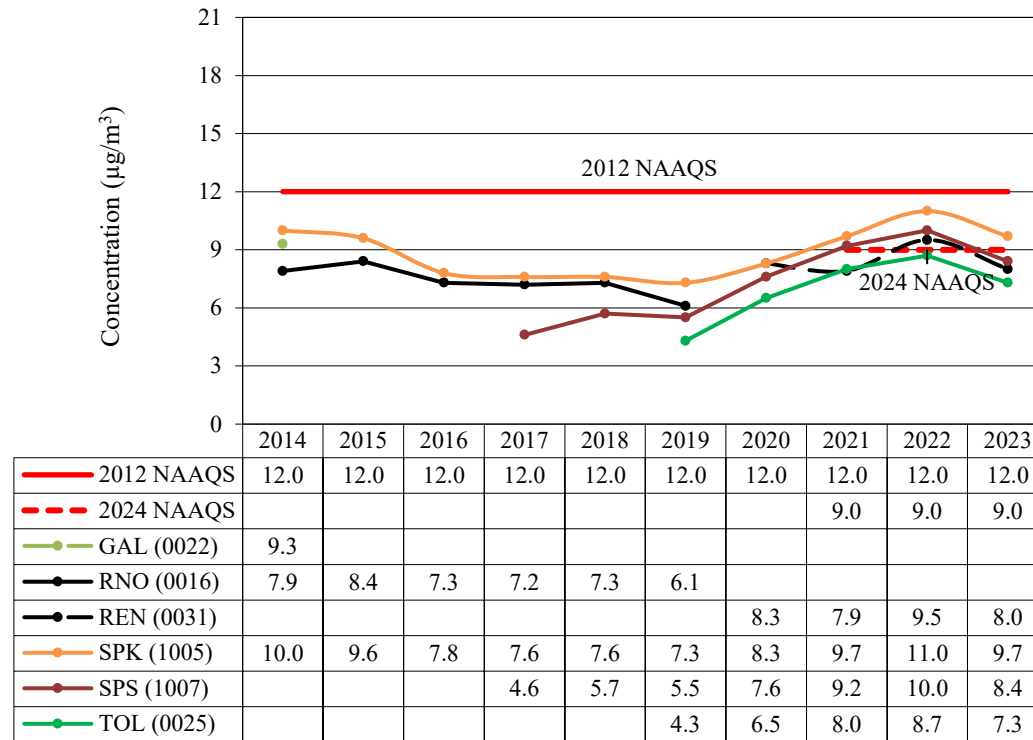
Ten-Year AQI Trend



- The ten-year AQI trend continues to show improvements in the wintertime year over year but are outweighed by summertime wildfire impacts. Summertime wildfire impacts in the ten-year trend led to significant variability which makes it difficult to see AQI improvement over time.
- The greatest challenge to Washoe County's air quality from local sources is increasing vehicle miles traveled that contribute to summertime ozone.



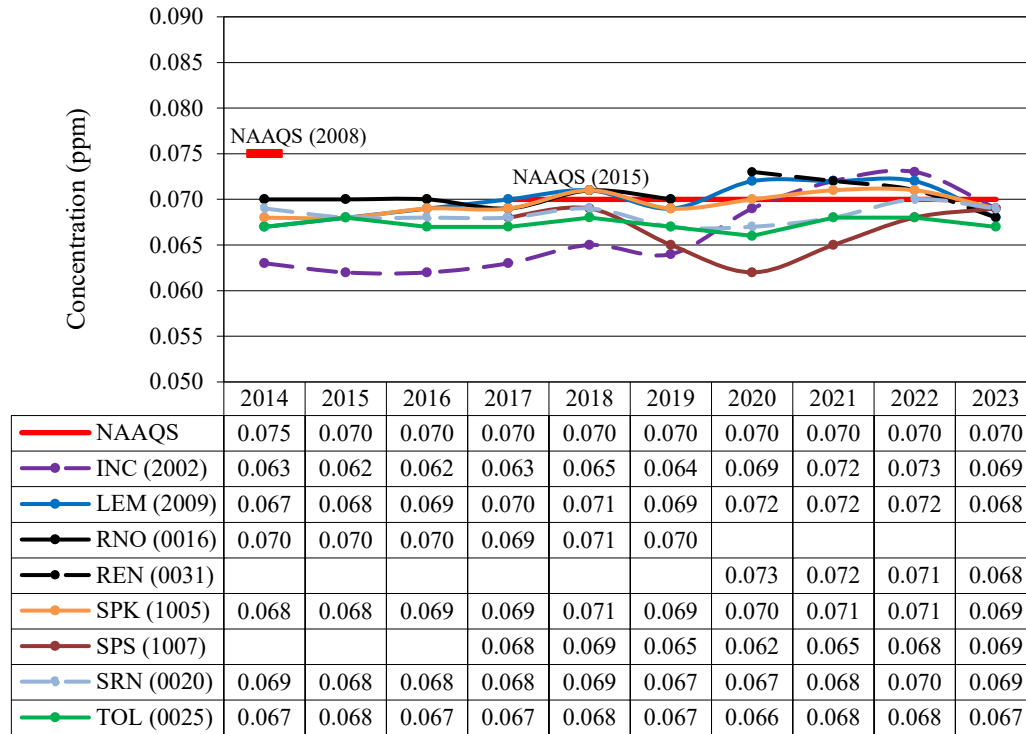
PM2.5 Annual NAAQS Revision



- The annual PM2.5 NAAQS revision was finalized on February 7, 2024. AQMD will be violating the new PM2.5 NAAQS due to wildfire smoke impacts in 2020-22. These wildfire smoke affected days may be excluded from regulatory and planning decisions.



Ozone Design Values



- Washoe County is no longer violating the ozone NAAQS for the first time since 2019 but remains close to violating.
- A proactive approach must be taken to ensure future attainment of the ozone NAAQS.



Takeaways

- Air pollution levels in Washoe County continues to improve in the wintertime due to wood-burning device regulations and our Burn Code.
- Summertime air pollution like ozone is becoming more of an issue due to increasing vehicle miles traveled.
- The Trends Report continues to be a valuable resource to inform air quality planning decisions.

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