



WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 26, 2014

DATE: June 10, 2014

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Charlene Albee, Director
775-784-7211, calbee@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Program Update – 2014 Bike to Work School & Fun Week, EnviroFlash Challenge, Divisional Update – Monthly Air Quality Index; Program Reports – Monitoring & Planning and Permitting & Enforcement

1. Program Update

a. 2014 Bike to Work, School & Fun Week

The 2014 Bike to Work, School & Fun Week (BTWW) took place May 10th through 16th and was a huge success for all of the participants and the community. There were 822 registrants with 164 of those actually logging their miles on-line. A total of 8,082 miles were logged which translates to 3.9 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions being avoided or the equivalent of removing 290 vehicles from the road over the course of the week. The Health District Team alone logged 437 miles.

This year's event included the Mayoral Challenge, which received significant media attention, Bike to the Ballpark, Pedal for Pancakes, Coffee Shop Stops, the Commuter Challenge, and the Rack Em Up at School Fullest & Best Decorated Bike Rack Contests. The Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance, RTC SMART TRIPS, Safe Routes to School, and the Air Quality Management Division coordinated the distribution of prizes for the event raffles and competitions.

The BTWW events support the goals of the Air Quality Management *Keep it Clean – Rack Em Up* campaign.

b. EnviroFlash Challenge Results

Last month AQM announced the delivery of daily air quality information through EnviroFlash, a service provided through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In a continuing effort to increase subscribers, the Annual EnviroFlash Challenge was conducted between April 21st and May 30th. This is a national challenge providing an opportunity for air agencies to compete against each other to see who can get

the biggest increase in subscribers. The competing agencies ranged across the county from South Coast Air Quality Management District to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. The following table represents the results of the 2014 EnviroFlash Challenge:

Total Percentage Increase

Results	Partner Agency	% Increase
First Place	Washoe County Health District	4900%
Second Place	City of Evansville EPA	40%
Third Place	Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management	38.7%

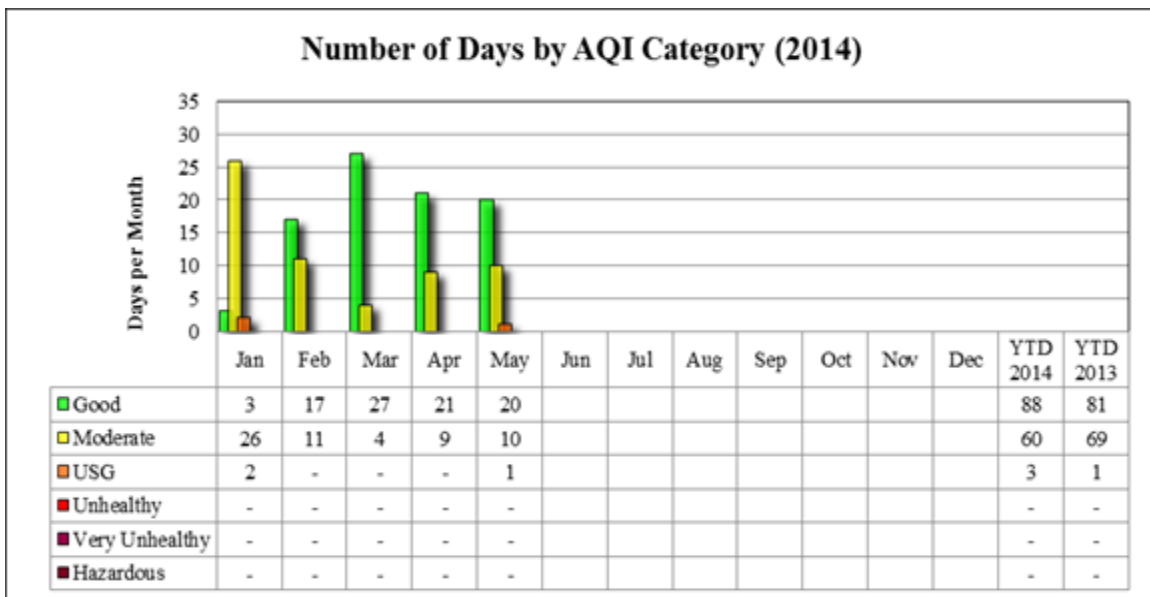
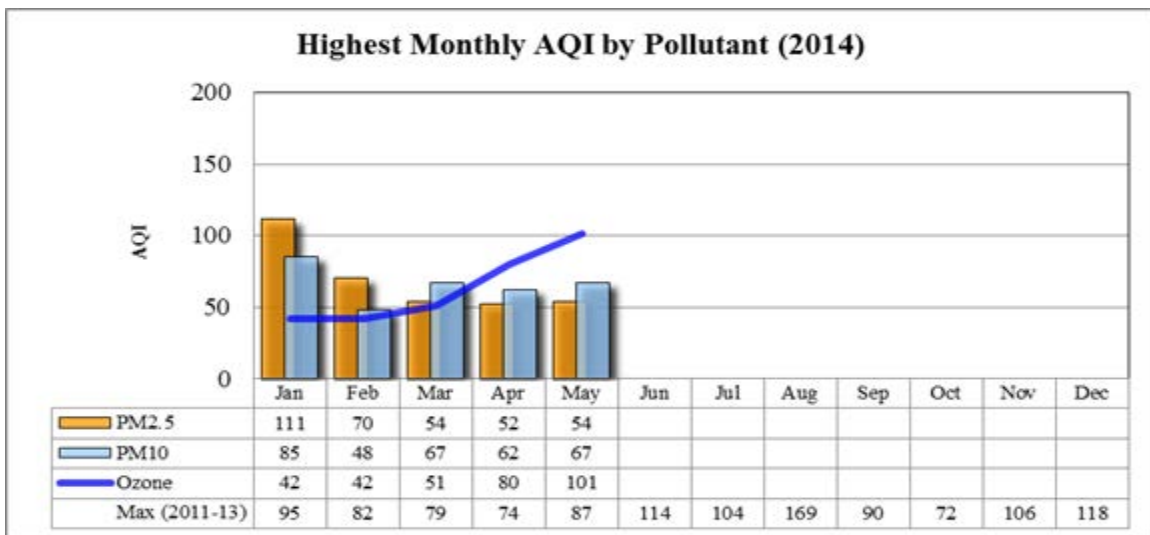
Total Subscriber Increase

Results	Partner Agency	Total Increase
First Place	South Coast Air Quality Management District	299
Second Place	Illinois EPA, Bureau of Air	113
Third Place	Washoe County Health District	98

Being new to EnviroFlash we did have an advantage in the total percentage increase but the total subscriber increase reflects a tremendous effort by staff to promote the program. At this time, Washoe County Health District has a total of 101 subscribers. The winners of the EnviroFlash Challenge will be receiving certificates and recognition on AirNow's website, Facebook, and Twitter.

2. Divisional Update

- a. Below are two charts detailing the latest air quality information for the month of May. The top chart indicates the highest AQI by pollutant and it also has the highest AQI from the previous three years in the data table for comparison. The bottom chart indicates the number of days by AQI category and it also has the previous year to date for comparison.



Please note AQI data are not fully verified and validated and should be considered preliminary. As such, they should not be used to formulate or support regulation, guidance, or any other governmental or public decision. For a daily depiction of the AQI data, please visit www.OurCleanAir.com for the most recent AQI Summary.

3. Program Reports

a. Monitoring & Planning

- The first ozone exceedance of the season occurred on May 17. There were no exceedances of any other criteria pollutant during the month.
- The DRAFT “2014 Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan” is available for public inspection. This annual plan is required by 40 CFR 58.10 and summarizes the monitoring network operations in 2013. It also includes proposed network modifications for 2014-2015. The plan will be submitted to EPA by July 1, 2014.
- An exceptional events request for last year’s American and Rim Fires is anticipated to begin a 30-day public comment period on July 1. The request is for EPA to exclude PM2.5 data that were affected by wildfire smoke when determining attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is also preparing a request for the Rim Fire. Planning staff have been coordinating and sharing resources with NDEP. After the 30-day public comment period, both requests will be submitted to EPA at the same time in order to strengthen each agency’s documentation.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has rebranded their smoking vehicle program. The new “Smog Spotter” program allows the public a way to report smoking vehicles. Smoking vehicles create more air pollution and increase the risk of developing heart and lung diseases. Residents can submit a smoking vehicle report online (www.SmogSpotter.com) or by phone at 844-END-SMOG or 775-686-SMOG.

b. Permitting & Enforcement

Type of Permit	2014		2013	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Renewal of Existing Air Permits	158	287	156	1339
New Authorities to Construct	8	44	3	88
Dust Control Permits	11 (73 acres)	49 (648 acres)	10 (145 acres)	105 (1420 acres)
Wood Stove Certificates	37	153	21	329
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	5 (5 replacements)	46 (29 replacements)	3 (1 replacement)	134 (83 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	445 (8 stoves removed)	2852 (30 stoves removed)	786 (10 stoves removed)	7346 (83 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	74	307	-	828
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	25	76	-	199

Staff reviewed twenty-four (24) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements.

Staff conducted sixty-four (64) stationary source renewal inspections and fifty-one (51) gas station inspections in May 2014. Staff also conducted inspections on asbestos removal and construction projects.

- A job announcement was posted in May for an interdepartmental recruitment to fill the vacant Air Quality Supervisor Position in the Permitting & Enforcement Branch. Washoe County Human Resources was pleased to report a list of four (4) qualified applicants was established. Interviews have been scheduled for June 11th in anticipation of a June 30th start date.
- The Permitting Section continues to document the business workflows in preparation for the Regional Permitting & Licensing Software Project. Currently there are seventeen (17) AQM permit/activity types in the Permits Plus System. Recognizing the limitations of the old system and the potential of the new system, staff has reduced

the list of permit types to five (5). The most significant change will be completing the emission calculations in an Excel spreadsheet and attaching the file to the permit rather than having the calculations hard coded into the system. This will provide flexibility for the calculations to be updated as science and research produce more representative methodologies. This change will result in a more efficient and accurate permitting system and overall emission inventory.

- The month of May is traditionally the beginning of the asbestos abatement season for the Enforcement Staff and this year is no exception. To date, abatement notifications have been submitted for four major projects at the University of Nevada, Reno, seven schools, the Reno Police Department, U.S. Post Office, Renown Medical Center, and multiple residences at Lake Tahoe. These projects are in addition to the Virginia Lake Townhouse project. Staff has also been contacted regarding the 60+ homes that will be abated prior to demolition in preparation for the Pyramid Way & McCarran Interchange Project which is expected to begin later this summer.

COMPLAINTS	2014*		2013	
	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Asbestos	4	10	3	18
Burning	0	3	0	8
Construction Dust	8	12	4	30
Dust Control Permit	3	8	1	7
General Dust	4	19	8	46
Diesel Idling	0	3	0	8
Odor	0	6	2	16
Spray Painting	0	3	4	5
Permit to Operate	4	13	0	55
Woodstove	0	8	0	16
TOTAL	23	85	22	209
NOV's	May	YTD	May	Annual Total
Warnings	7	19	3	46
Citations	3	12	2	40
TOTAL	10	31	5	86

*Discrepancies in totals between monthly reports can occur due to data entry delays.