



Director's Report for April 2024

Meeting Date: May 9, 2024
Department: Director's Office
www.lrapa.org

Agenda Item No. 13
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April 2024 AQI CHARTS AND STATS:

April

Site	Date	Max AQI	Pollutant
Eug/Spfld	13-Apr-24	45	PM
Oak	18-Apr-24	36	PM
CottGrv	22-Apr-24	52	PM

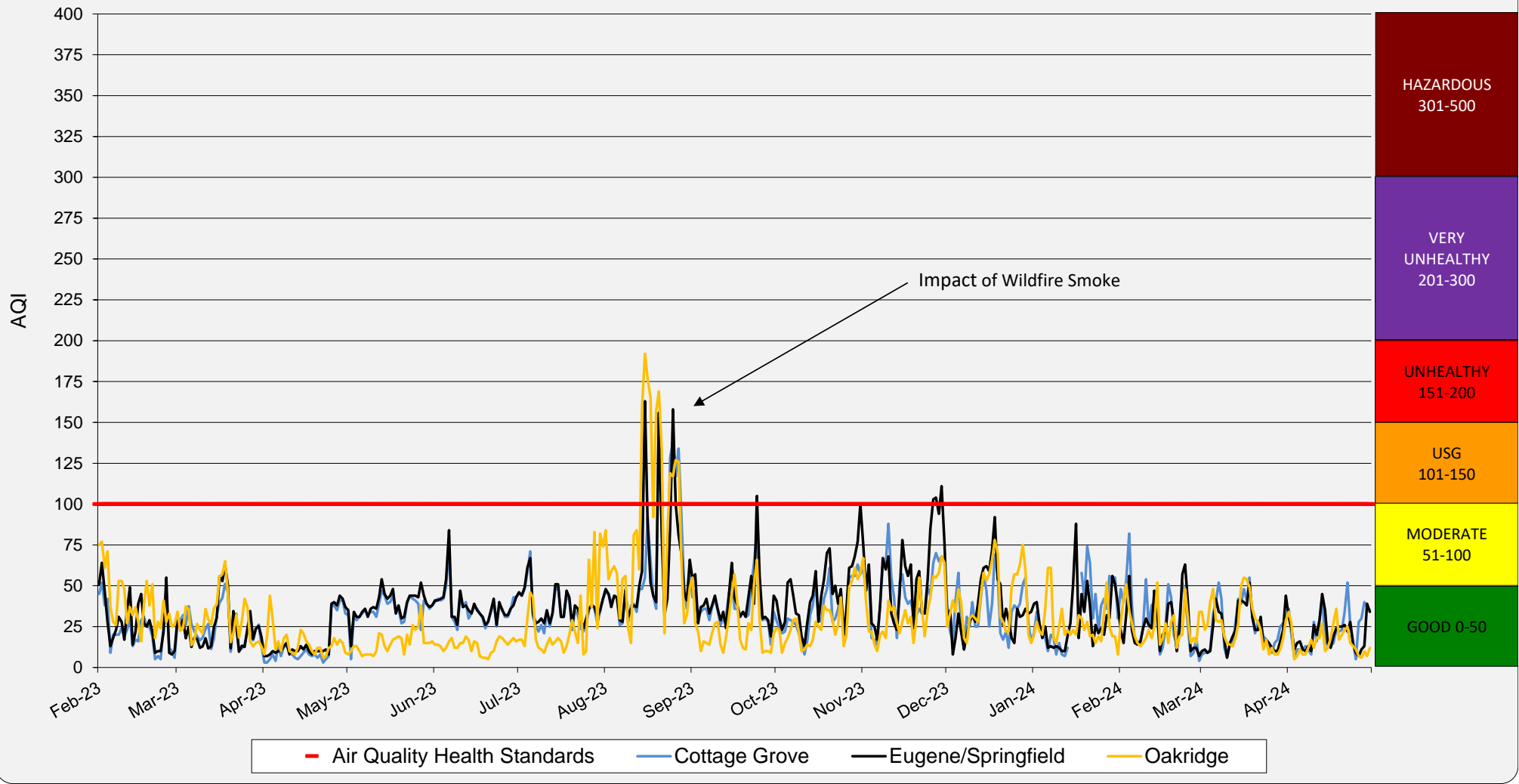
AQI	Eug/Spfld	Oak	CottGrv	AQI Range	PM2.5 Range, ug/m3
Good	30	30	29	0-50	0-12
Moderate	0	0	1	51-100	12.1-35.4
USG	0	0	0	101-150	35.5-55.4
Unhealthy	0	0	0	151-200	55.5-150.4
Very Unhealthy	0	0	0	201-300	150.5-250.4
Hazardous	0	0	0	301-500	250.5-500

Attachment No. 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) charts for Lane County (April 2024)

Attachment No. 2: PM2.5 index charts for Lane County (April 2024)

Daily Air Quality Index Chart

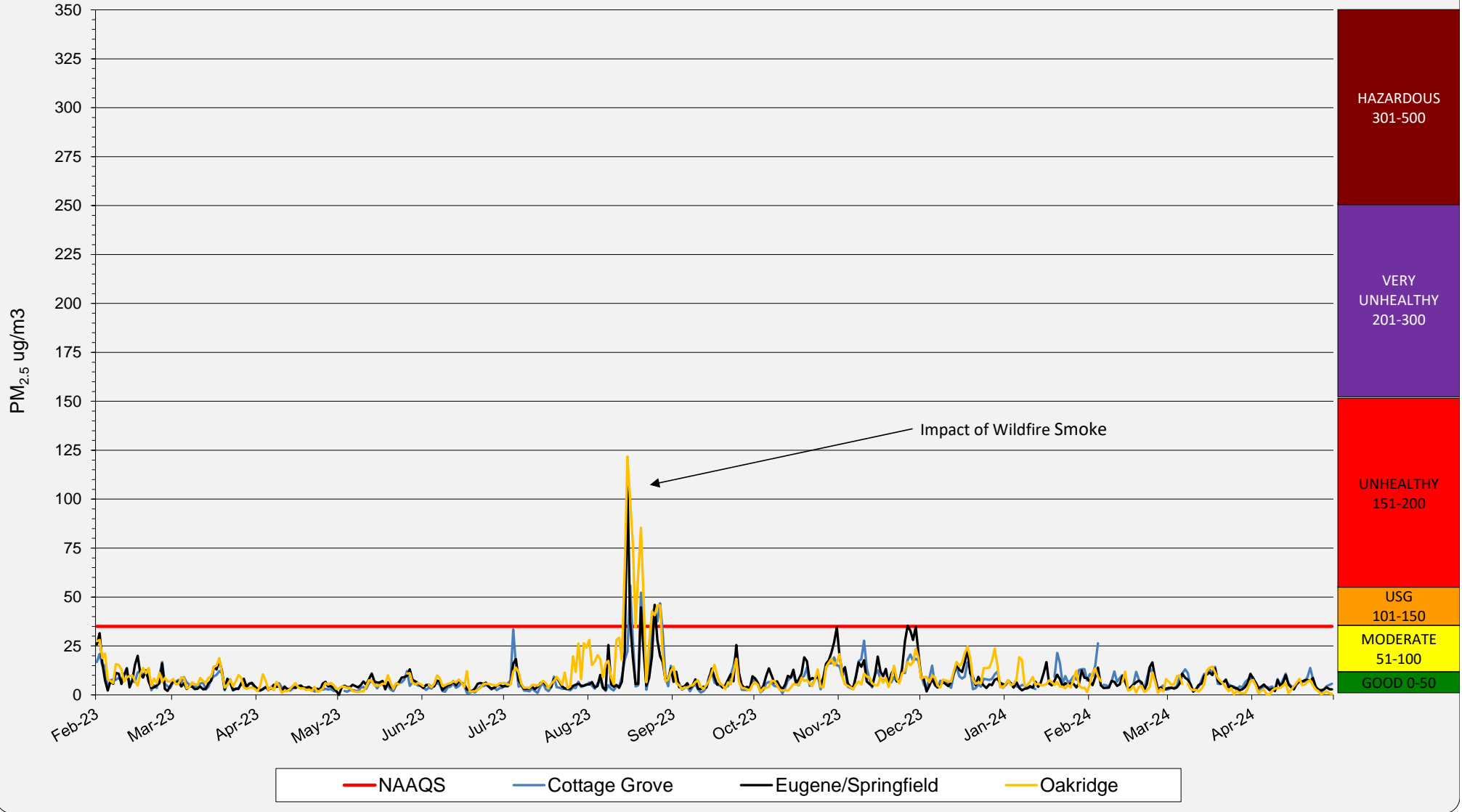
This 15-month chart demonstrates the seasonality of the pollutants.



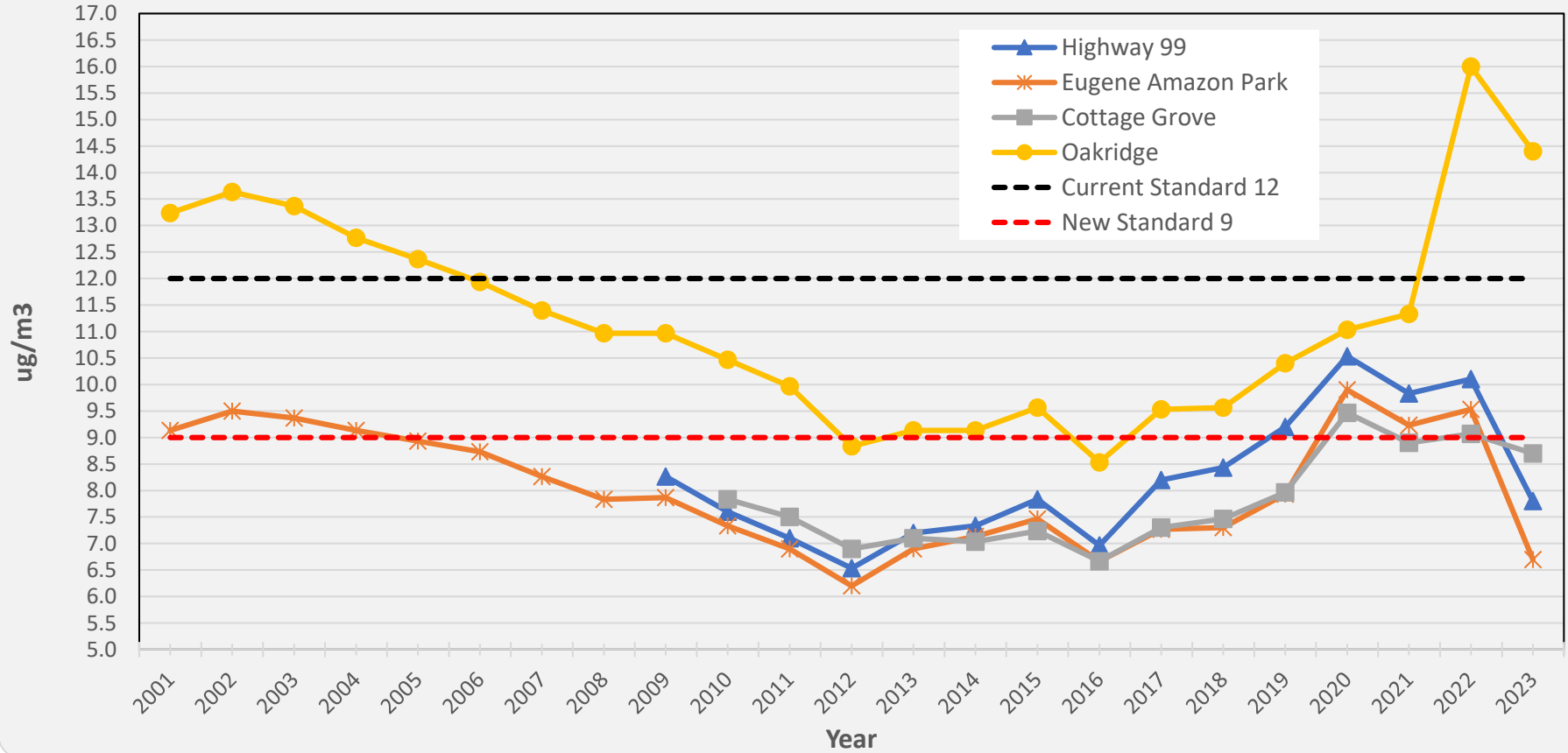
Daily PM2.5 Levels

Daily Sampling, NAAQS Exceedance is Triggered on the 8th High

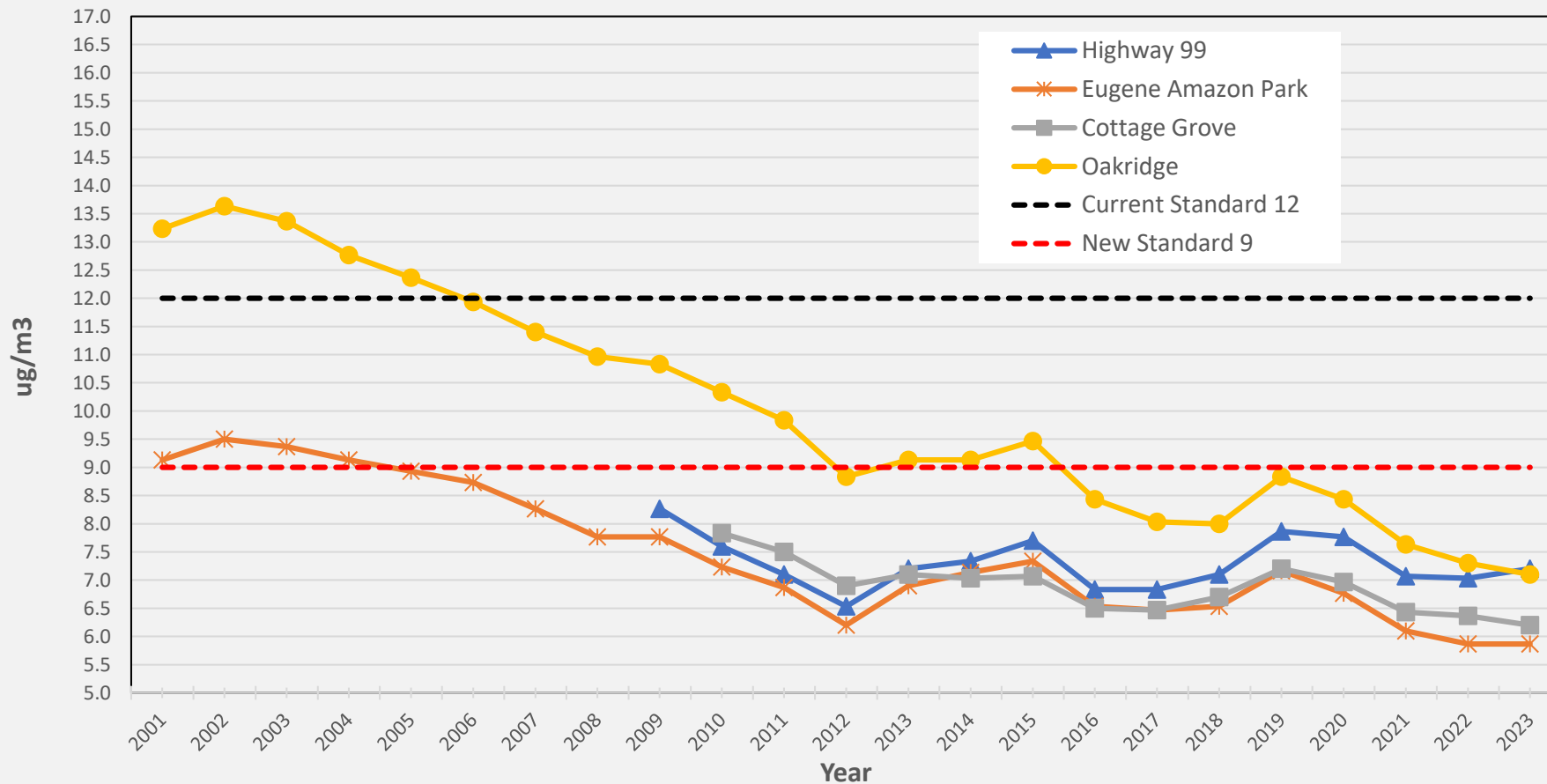
AQI LEVEL



PM2.5 - Annual 3-Year Average (includes wildfire data) 2021-2023 Data



PM2.5 - Annual 3-Year Average (excludes wildfire data) 2021-2023 Data



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: 4/1/2024 thru 4/30/2024:

Smoke complaints: 41
24 – Outdoor Burning
4 – Home Wood Heating
Industry:
3 – Arclin USA, LLC
2 – Murphy Plywood
1 – Marathon Coach, Inc.
Fugitive Dust
1 – Knife River
Miscellaneous Odor:
1 – Wood Chips
2 – Generator
1 – Marijuana
2 – Unknown
Total: 41

The calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Dust	15	17	26	12	7	1
Ag Burning / Spraying	6	2	7	2	3	0
General Air Quality	12	4	8	1	25	9
Home Wood Heating	128	74	57	67	52	21
Industry	170	100	336	198	97	26
Outdoor Burning	402	423	243	292	254	77
Slash Burning	16	12	10	6	12	0
Miscellaneous	67	59	40	102	72	7
Unknown	39	74	71	45	65	20
Total	855	765	798	725	587	161

* Year-To-Date

NEW/OPEN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS STATUS REPORT
4/1/2024 to 4/30/2024

NEW: 4/01/2024 -- 4/30/2024: None.

Calendar year 2024 compared to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Notices of Non-compliance and Warnings	55	15	21	24	19	0
Notices of Violation with Civil Penalties	37	26	17	24	15	0

* Year-To-Date.

ENFORCEMENT: 4/01/2024 to 4/30/2024

Category of Violation	New	Follow-Up Action	Pending	Closed	Total
Asbestos	-	-	4	-	4
Industrial	-	-	3	-	3
Outdoor Burning	-	-	2	-	2
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	-
Home Wood Heating	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	9	-	9

The complete enforcement report document is published on LRAPA’s Publication Reports and Factsheets [webpage](#).

OUTDOOR BURNING LETTER PERMITS: 4/01/2024 TO 4/30/2024

There was one Outdoor Burning Letter Permit (OBLP) issued in April 2024.

1. Issued Special Letter Permit 20B24-04-01 on April 29 to Shannon Carpani, 24887 Strike St., Veneta, to burn 40 cubic yards of Land Clearing debris located at Tax Lot #1706363400800, Veneta .

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT: 4/01/2024 to 4/30/2024

For perspective, here is how the total number of asbestos abatement notices filed, how many were schools and the number of notices inspected for calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Total Asbestos Abatement Notices	488	439	408	465	466	163
School Asbestos Abatement Notices (NESHAP)	16	25	20	16	17	6
Number of Asbestos Abatements Inspected	94	93	104	115	91	20

* Year-To-Date.

PERMITTING (TITLE V AND ACDP):

- Currently 14 sources, Title V permits
- Currently approximately 275 sources, air Contaminant Discharge Permits (ACDPs)

Permit activities:

Category of Permit Activity	Title V	ACDP	Registration	Total Active
New	2	5		7
Renewals	3	20		23
Modifications		4		4
Constructions	1			1
Registrations				
Terminated Permits		4		
Total Issued Permits Year-to-date	5	17		22

Permits placed on public notice:

Source Name	Reason for Public Notice	Type of Permit
Seneca Sawmill	Modification of ACDP and New Title V	ACDP modification to include changes in parallel with changing from a Standard ACDP to a New Title V.
Lanz Cabinet	New ACDP	Changing from Title V to Standard ACDP
Marathon Couch	Renew ACDP	Renewal of Simple High ACDP.
Lane Forest Products	Renew ACDP	Renewal of Simple High ACDP.
Attune	Renew ACDP	Renewal of Simple Low ACDP.
Pierce Fittings	Renew ACDP	Renewal of Simple Low ACDP.
Willamette Valley Company	Renew ACDP	Renewal of Simple ACDP.

Permits with public hearing notice:

Source Name	Reason for Public Hearing	Date of Public Hearing
Seneca Sawmill	ACDP Modification and New Title V	May 21, 2024

Permit backlog:

Permit Type	Total Number of Permits by Type	Number of Permits Extended Administratively	Percentage of Total (%)
Title V	14	0	0%
Standard	26	3	11%
Simple	28	7	25%
Total	68	10	10%

MEDIA INTEREST AND OUTREACH

Date	Media	Person	Topic
2/9/2024	KEZI	Robert Desaulniers	Springfield Burning Variance
2/25/2024	KEZI	Noah Chavez	Springfield Burning Variance
03/28/2024	Ore. News Service	Eric Tegethoff	Air Quality Awareness Week
03/28/2024	KVAL	Juliette Smith	Allergy Season
04/25/2024	KLCC	Tiffany Eckert	ALA Report
04/29/2024	KEZI	Aaron Arellano	ALA Report
05/03/2024	Eugene Emerald	Andres Baisch	ALA Report

In response to media interest regarding the "State of the Air" report by the American Lung Association (ALA), LRAPA has engaged with media representatives interested in understanding the factors contributing to the ranking of Eugene/Springfield as fourth on their list of worst air quality in the United States. LRAPA clarified that wildfire smoke remains the predominant cause of poor air quality ratings in the area. Specifically, for this report, air quality data from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, 2021 Middle Fork Complex Fire, and 2022 Cedar Creek Fire were included in ALA's determination and are the reasons the region ranked highly. Despite LRAPA's limited authority over natural wildfires, the agency is committed to working collaboratively with partners to enhance public awareness and preparedness during such events.

LRAPA published a press release in late April titled "LRAPA Prepares for Ozone Season." This release details the agency's readiness to monitor air quality, particularly ozone levels, during the warmer months. It highlights the operational status of ozone monitors and LRAPA's strategies for collective public efforts to manage health risks associated with high ozone levels, emphasizing the importance of personal actions to reduce ozone formation.

AGENCY GOALS AND UPDATES

In January 2022, the Board established the following goals to drive LRAPA's efforts in protecting public health, community well-being, and the environment. Below is an overview of each goal, accompanied by recent updates and milestones, with specific focus on activities in April, 2024.

1. Oakridge/Westfir Air Quality Improvement

Objective: Seek EPA approval to improve air quality in Oakridge/Westfir.

- Following the redesignation of Oakridge in September 2022, LRAPA continues to implement two targeted airshed grants in the area to further improve progress. The semi-annual meeting for Oakridge Air was successfully held on Monday, April 15th. The

event was structured as a casual open house, allowing attendees the flexibility to join us at their convenience during the allotted time.

2. Internal Efficiency Enhancement

Objective: Streamline internal processes and policies for improved efficiency.

- An internal focus on policies and procedures continues. Current focus is on enhancing internal file organization to improve access and manageability, with a comprehensive review and restructuring of the Org. folder system. This collaborative effort involves all staff and aims to align with everyone's workflows, targeting full implementation by the end of July.

3. Pre-Budget Planning

Objective: Plan ahead for budget committee meetings to ensure financial stability.

- Despite challenges due to executive and financial management changes, LRAPA remains engaged in the budget cycle. The first budget committee meeting to review the FY'25 budget occurred in April, marking good progress towards the planned board adoption in June.

4. Financial Stability Assessment

Objective: Evaluate LRAPA's costs and explore funding sources for long-term stability.

- LRAPA's budget forecast and assumptions indicate the agency's finances are stable.

5. Website Redesign

Objective: Improve LRAPA's website for better user access to air quality information.

- Following the website redesign in September 2022, ongoing improvements include the Citizen Advisory Committee review and enhancement the application page and question, which went live in April.

6. Community Engagement

Objective: Increase interaction with communities to raise air quality awareness.

- LRAPA continues to engage collaboratively with various stakeholders and agencies on soil remediation activities concerning J.H. Baxter in West Eugene. LRAPA is preparing a social media campaign for Air Quality Awareness Week the first full week of May. LRAPA participated in an in-studio interview celebrating local TV station KVAL's 70th Anniversary. This appearance will provide an opportunity to discuss LRAPA's initiatives and strengthen community engagement through local media.

7. Collaboration and Partnerships

Objective: Strengthen relationships with local communities and industry for problem-solving.

- LRAPA participated in several regional collaborative groups and committees meetings in April. These included Lane Regional Climate Collaborative, Oakridge Area Fire Safe Council, and Lane County Healthy Housing Collaborative.

8. Funding Source Diversification

Objective: Seek new funding opportunities to support air quality programs.

- LRAPA has been informed by DEQ that its prospects for increased budget support are constrained due to a lower prioritization of Climate and Environment in the governor's budget. Consequently, LRAPA's ability to secure enhanced funding through DEQ is significantly limited. Moving forward, LRAPA will need to directly engage Oregon legislators to advocate for its funding needs. However, there are restrictions on the extent of this engagement to avoid the need for official registration as lobbying, which may affect the agency's ability to secure new or additional legislative support in the upcoming long session.

9. Airmetrics Enterprise Evaluation

Objective: Assess the effectiveness of Airmetrics in monitoring air quality.

- Following the board's decision in late 2022 and 2023, Airmetrics is in the process of closing remaining operations. LRAPA plans to retain the Airmetrics location for storage during the agency's remodel.

10. Complaint Intake Process Improvement

Objective: Enhance the process for receiving and responding to air quality complaints.

- LRAPA has revised the internal complaint entry user interface in LINFO to streamline the process for staff to enter complaints and investigation results.

11. Regulatory Engagement

Objective: Stay updated on air quality regulations through engagement with relevant organizations.

- In March, the LRAPA board endorsed comments provided to the EPA regarding air quality regulations. Subsequently, the EPA amended its rule, potentially influenced by these and other external comments. While the direct impact of LRAPA's comments on this regulatory change is not clear, the adjustment aligns with our goals, and the process itself strengthened our collaboration with key stakeholders.

12. Succession Planning and Staff Training

Objective: Prepare for staff transitions through succession planning and training.

- LRAPA has advanced recruitment efforts. Applicants have been received for an open air quality inspector position, with first screening of candidates in early May. Additionally, a permit writer position was in late April to address a vacancy created by a recent retirement. In April the board also engaged in a preliminary review of candidates for the open Executive Director position in April.

TENTATIVE UPCOMING LRAPA BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

This schedule outline is a preview of anticipated upcoming agenda items.

June 2024

- Adopt FY25 Budget
- Employee Longevity Recognition
- Year-end Overview of Pre-audit Financials
- Capital Improvement Project
- Annual Report Review
- Employee Handbook Update

July 2024

- QR 3 & 4 Financial Update
- Audit Report
- Rivers to Ridges Presentation on Prescribed Burning

August 2024

- Board Goals Work Session

September 2024

- Discuss Partner Dues

October 2024

- Dashboard Report

November 2024

- Approve Partner dues
- Budget Update

December 2024 – No Meeting

January 2025

- Review upcoming appointments on Board and Committees
- Oakridge Air Status Report

February 2025

- Nominations/Appoint Board Chair and Vice-Chair
- Nominations/Appoint new Budget Committee Members and Budget Officer
- Budget Forecast