



Air District Updates: Focus on Permitting

Annual BACWA Meeting

May 2, 2025

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AGENDA:



Agenda

- Strategic Plan Permit Strategies
- Staffing Updates
- Transparency Improvements
- Upcoming priorities

Strategic Plan Framework

<https://strategicplan.baaqmd.gov/>

MISSION

The Air District improves air quality to protect public health, reduce historical and current environmental inequities, and mitigate climate change and its impacts.

CORE VALUES



5-YEAR VISION

Over the next 5 years, the Air District will transform its workforce, operations, community engagement, and programs to improve air quality, increase public trust, and demonstrate leadership in equity-centered environmental stewardship.

Environmental Justice Priorities

5-YEAR GOALS





Goal 4: Be Effective, Accountable, and Customer - Oriented

Improve permitting, monitoring, and enforcement
Build relationships and enhance communications
Be accountable

Sample Commitments to Action

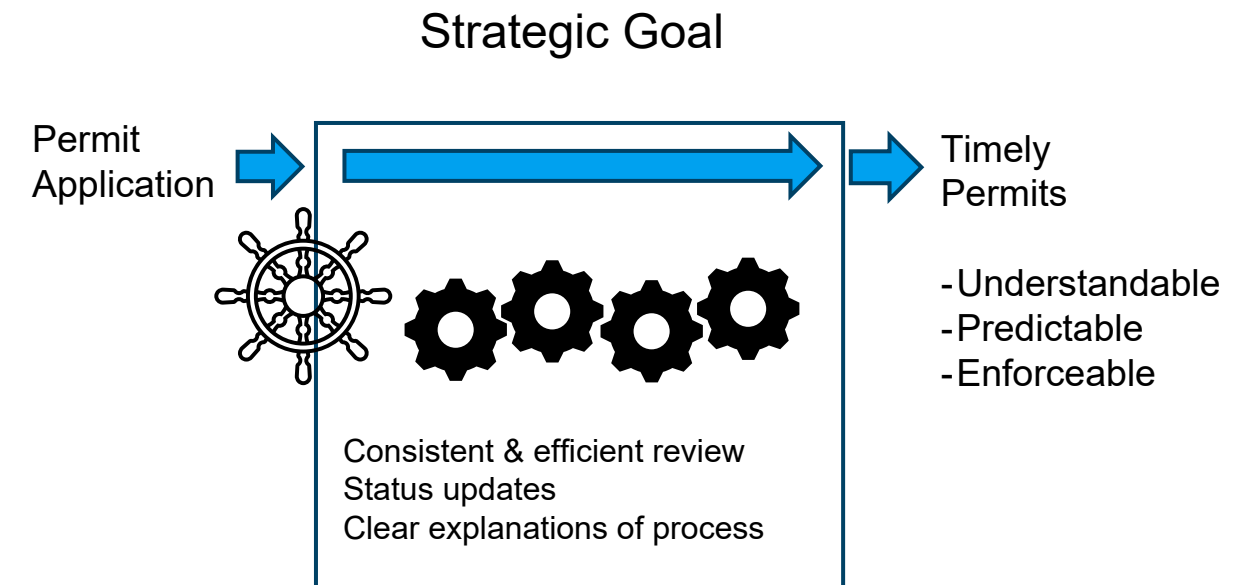
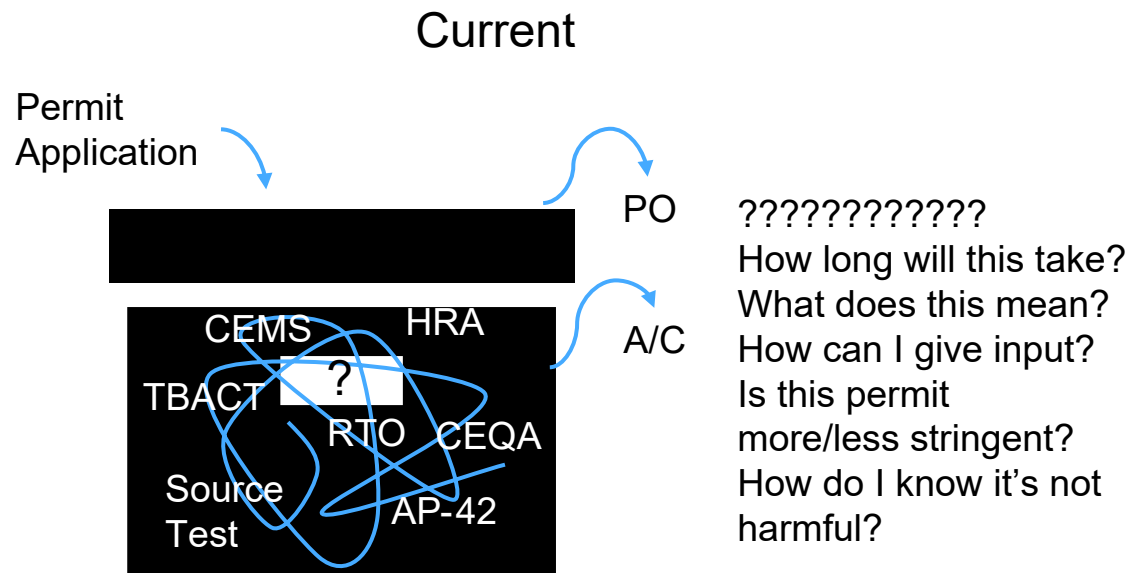
- Target inspections and other compliance activities where they are most needed.
- Increase social media presence to expand youth outreach and engage young people.
- Strengthen internal organizational knowledge and communication skills so people experience the highest level of service.
- Create measurable performance outcomes for each strategy and associated action.

Permit Strategies

4.1 Timely Permits: We will improve the timeliness of our permitting decisions.

4.2 Transparent Permit Process : We will improve our permitting process to be more transparent and accountable to applicants and the public.

4.3 Consistent Permits: We will ensure Air District rules and associated air quality permits issued are clear, consistent, and enforceable so that air pollution affecting communities is minimized.



Permit Strategies: 4.1 Timely Permits

4.1 Timely Permits: We will improve the timeliness of our permitting decisions.

- **Commitment 1** : Update our regulations and policies to ensure efficient and timely permitting processes.
- **Commitment 2** : Better track permit applications, address bottlenecks in the permitting process, and improve our internal coordination.
- **Commitment 3** : Establish permit project teams for complex permits
- **Commitment 4** : Update resource management to align with permit workload.

Permit Strategies: 4.2 Transparent Permit Process

4.2 Transparent Permit Process : We will improve our permitting process to be more transparent and accountable to applicants and the public.

- **Commitment 1** : Provide more information to applicants and the public throughout permitting process.
- **Commitment 2** : Create user-friendly reports and enhance publicly accessible, web-based tools for permit applications, online tracking, and easily accessible information on permitted sources, permit activity, and related emissions.
- **Commitment 3** : Improve how we communicate information about permits and the permitting process to our communities and applicants using more understandable, less technical language.

Permit Strategies: 4.3 Consistent Permits

4.3 Consistent Permits: We will ensure Air District rules and associated air quality permits issued are clear, consistent, and enforceable so that air pollution affecting communities is minimized.

- **Commitment 1** : Ensure regulations are clear and enforceable when included in a permit.
- **Commitment 2** : Review standard permit conditions and our process for translating regulations to permit conditions.
- **Commitment 3** : Review how we issue permits to ensure we are following civil rights laws and regulations.
- **Commitments 4** : Explore how to further consider cumulative impacts in our permitting process.

Staffing Updates

FY25

- 5 new Permit Engineer positions: 1 senior position in Organics/Waste -water Section

FY26 (Board Approval in June)

- BACT/Consistency Coordinator
- Facility -funded Engineering Program Manager

Engineering Program Manager: Pilot

Engineering Program Managers would:

- Work with applicants with complex permit applications prior to submittal.
- Keep projects on a schedule.
- Coordinate timely exchange of information.
- Resolve roadblocks and elevate for management decision as needed.

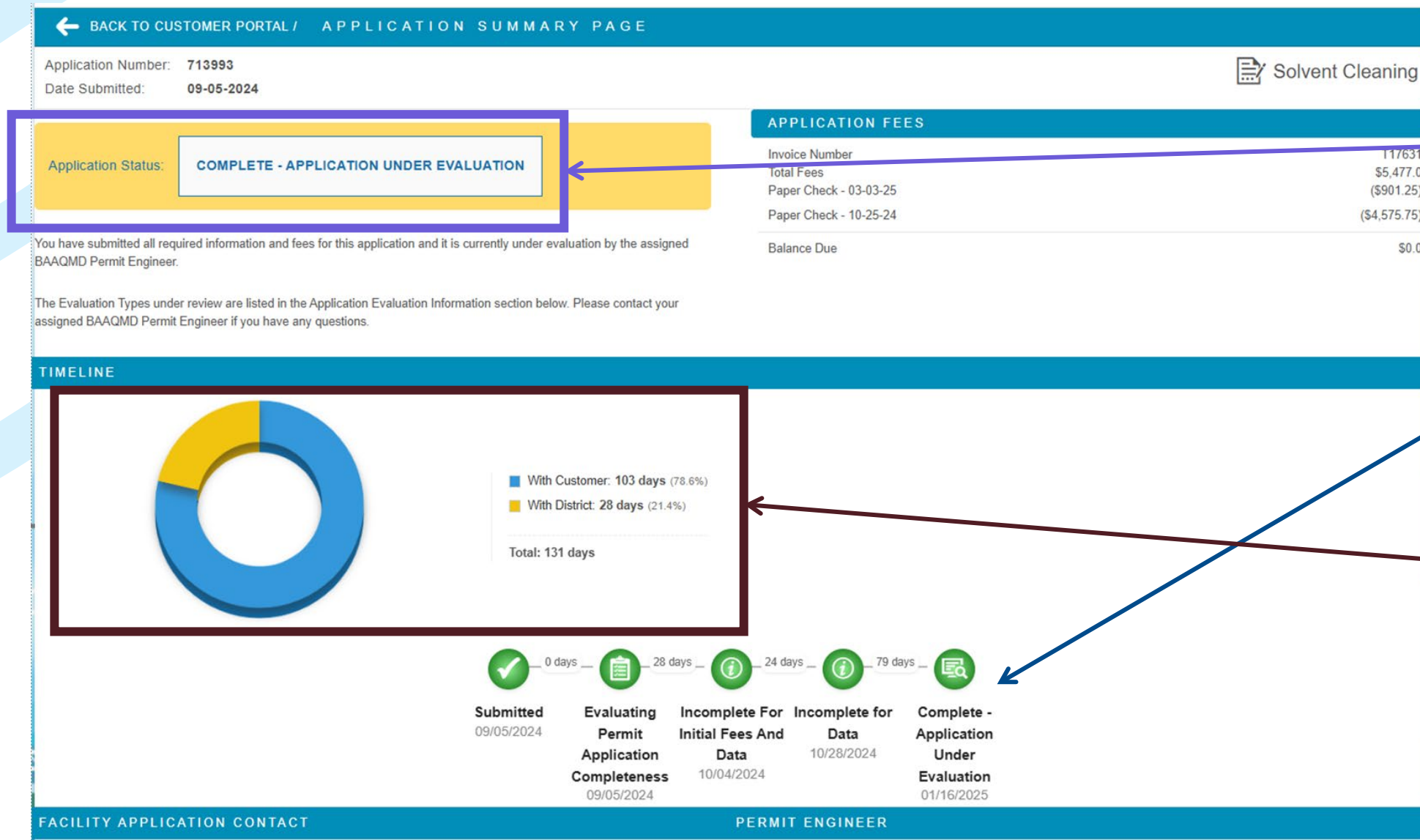
Funding and Pilot Phase

- The pilot program will run for three years, during which facilities will fund the assigned positions.
- After the pilot phase, the program may transition to a voluntary fee-based model in FY 2030.

Key Benefits for Facilities

- Faster Permit Processing – Reduces delays and improves approval timelines.
- Pre-Application Guidance – Helps applicants prepare more complete applications.
- Dedicated Expertise – Engineering Program Managers provide specialized support.
- Greater Transparency – Facilities receive clear expectations and regular updates.
- Support for Emerging Technologies – Assistance to participating facilities in permitting new technologies such as renewable energy, carbon capture, and other innovative projects.

Application History and Status for the Facility



- Application status

- Visual timeline

- Time with Air District and applicant

“Complete – Application, With the Applicant” Status

Automated Notification to the Facility: Initial and 30-day reminders

Although the application was declared Complete, we determined that your review or additional information is necessary to finalize the application.

- You should have received or should soon receive the details and action needed in a separate email.

You can review the status of your application at any time, please:

1. Log in to your Air District account at <http://myaironline.baaqmd.gov>.
2. Navigate to the My Permit Applications list for this Facility.
3. Click on the ‘View’ button for the above application to navigate to the application summary page.

Upcoming Permit Priorities

Permit streamlining and backlog reduction

- Significant system enhancement to identify stalled permit applications
- Clearing legacy/outdated permit applications
- Permit streamlining policy

More online permitting

- Promotes complete permit applications
- Gives applicants control on how and when information gets logged in the permit system

Making permit information more publicly available

Other Relevant Strategic Plan Initiatives

Strategy 1.1 Change Approach to Air Quality

We will change our approach to reducing air pollution so that we achieve more meaningful improvements to air quality in communities, with a focus on those overburdened by air pollution.

- In overburdened communities: Emissions and risk calculations are especially important to do upfront when planning projects and sourcing equipment.

Strategy 2.5 Air Quality Complaints

We will improve the complaint process to ensure it is effective and transparent.

Questions/Feedback

For more information:
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