

Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program

Overview

The Bay Area Air District is launching the Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program to improve the permitting process for complex applications. This program will assign dedicated Engineering Program Managers to work with facilities on challenging permit applications, ensuring more efficient reviews, better communication, and improved transparency.



Why this Program?

Many facilities submit standard permit applications that follow well-established processes. However, some applications are more complex due to:

- **Inter-Related Units**
Changing a process or equipment at one part of a plant may affect permitted requirements in upstream or downstream units.
- **Unknown Emission Factors**
Limited data on pollutants from new or modified sources.
- **Non-Standard Operations**
Unique processes or new technologies requiring case-by-case analysis.
- **Project Changes and Coordination Needs**
Mid-project adjustments and impacts on surrounding operations.

These challenges can lead to **longer processing times, increased costs, and regulatory uncertainty** for facilities. The Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program is designed to help address these issues.

How the Program Works

Participation & Selection

- Facilities or trade associations with complex permit applications can apply to the program.
- The Air District will identify eligible participants based on complexity and volume of overdue permits.

Pre-Application Support

- Engineering Program Managers will provide **early guidance** to address potential roadblocks.
- Participating facilities can consult with program managers before submitting applications.

Dedicated Permit Assistance

- Assigned Engineering Program Managers will work closely with applicants throughout the permitting process.
- They will help coordinate timelines, track required documentation, communicate Air District requirements, and quickly resolve technical or policy issues.

Improved Review Process

- Focus on **resolving technical issues upfront** to expedite the approval timeline.
- More **consistent and predictable** permit processing.



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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.

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.

How to Participate

Facilities interested in participating should:

Contact the Air District to express interest and discuss eligibility.

Attend an informational session to learn more about the program.

Work with an Engineering Program Manager to streamline the permitting process.

Contact:

Bay Area Air District, Engineering Division
415.749.4990, permits@baaqmd.gov