




Agenda Item: H-3
Agenda Date: January 16, 2025
Agenda Placement: Regular
Estimated Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

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SUBJECT: Updates to the District's Permitted Facilities Map

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the District's updated Permitted Facilities Map:
<https://map.ourair.org/>.



BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the District developed the online Permitted Facilities Map to make public information about permitted facilities easily accessible on our website. In its first iteration, the map identified locations of the facilities permitted by the District and included links to each facility's main operating permit and most recent annual report. In addition to making these documents more transparent to the public, the map allowed the District to save staff time it would otherwise take to compile the information for public records act requests; also, prior to moving all materials to a digital-only format, the map saved requestors fees the District would need to charge per page of material provided. Internally, the map increased our operational efficiency and can assist inspectors when responding to complaints.

The first version of the map was developed in-house by District staff. In the years since the first iteration of the map, the District has received suggestions from the public on how to make the map more visually appealing, user-friendly, and functional, and staff have made note of how specific enhancements would better serve the District and members of the public.

DISCUSSION:

In early 2024, staff hired a vendor to make a suite of updates and improvements to the Permitted Facilities Map. Those updates and improvements include:

- Modernized graphics and design
- Reduced load times
- Expanded facility data:
 - Company history
 - Source history
 - 10 years of emissions inventory data (criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases)
 - Permit descriptions
 - Standard Industrial Classification Codes
- Significantly enhanced search capabilities
- Expanded document availability:
 - All active permits
 - All permit applications for active permits
 - 10 years of annual reports
 - 10 years of inspection reports
 - 10 years of Notices of Violations
- Added monitoring stations and real-time Air Quality Index data
- Added fully functional mobile view for smartphone use
- All data and documents updated in real-time

With these enhancements implemented, the District will promote the Permitted Facilities Map broadly to the media, general public, and stakeholders. With the way the redesign was implemented, it will be easier for additional improvements to be made in the future as needed. The District is proud to be one of only a few air districts in California to have such a transparent tool for the public.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The cost for the updates to the Permitted Facilities Map were included in the budgets approved by your Board. There are no additional fiscal impacts.