# Permit Streamlining Task Force Meeting

February 9, 2005 AQMD Headquarters



### Agenda

- Introduction of all Task Force Members
- Purpose of the Task Force
- Status Update of Permit Applications
- Past Permit Streamlining Measures Summary
- New Steps to Improve Permitting
- Other Suggestions for Permit Streamlining and Future Agenda Topics
- Action Items and Meeting Schedule

# Purpose of the Permit Streamlining Task Force



### Permit Streamlining Task Force

- Purpose: Develop recommendations to expedite permitting and improve customer service for the businesses regulated by AQMD
- Formed in mid 1998 per Chairman Burke's direction
- Task force members included three Board members, representatives from industry, consultants, and environmental groups.



- Creation of a Permit Streamlining Ombudsman and a Permit Streamlining Team.
- Evaluated suggestions from the Task Force Members & from Brainstorming sessions with staff & businesses.
- An independent contractor was hired to conduct a study of AQMD's permitting program.
- Prepared a Permit Streamlining Report with 37 specific recommendations that were approved by the Board for implementation.



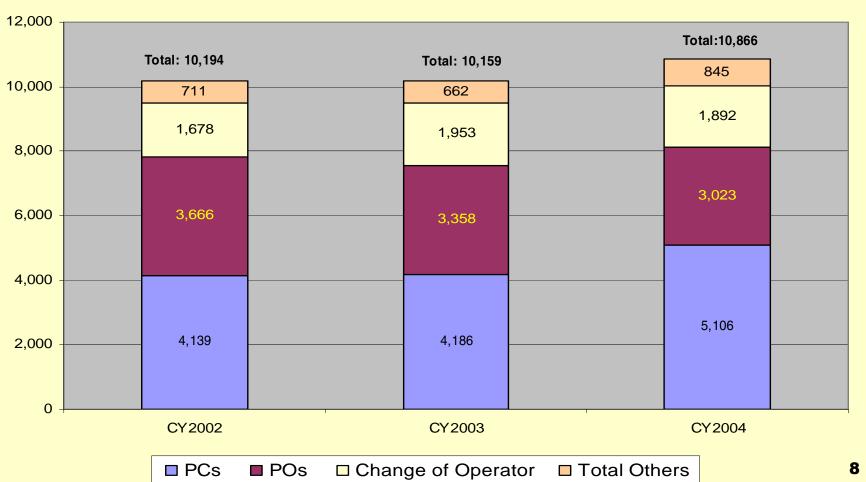
# Permit Streamlining Task Force Reconvened

The purpose is to evaluate further Permit Streamlining proposals and examine enhancements to permitting programs and permitting resources.

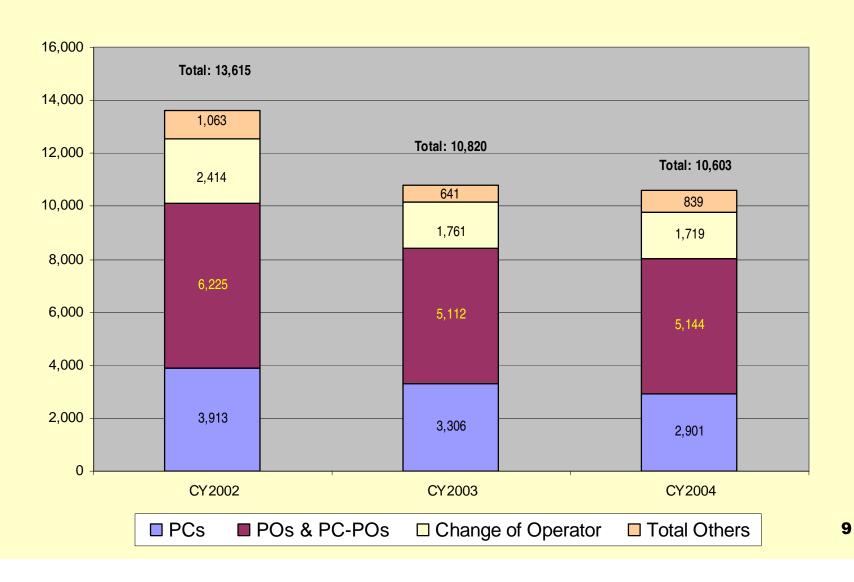
# Status Update of Permit Applications

### **Applications Received**

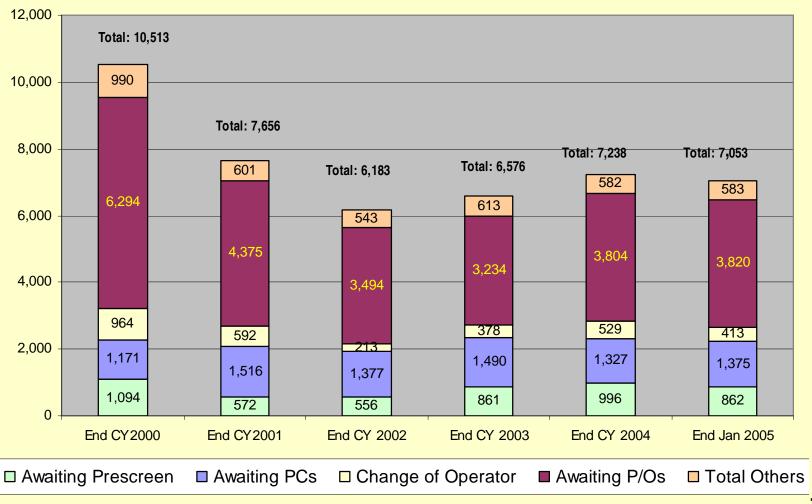
Increase of 707 Applications over 2003



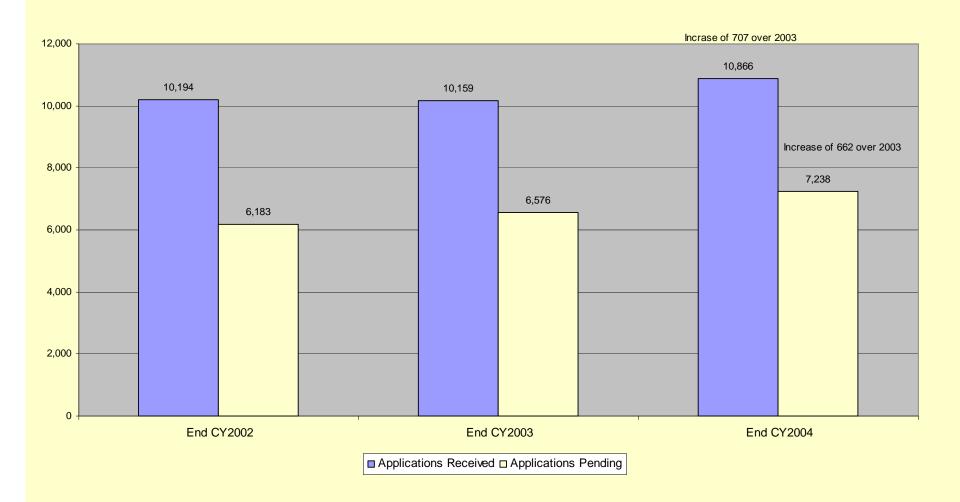
### **Applications Processed**



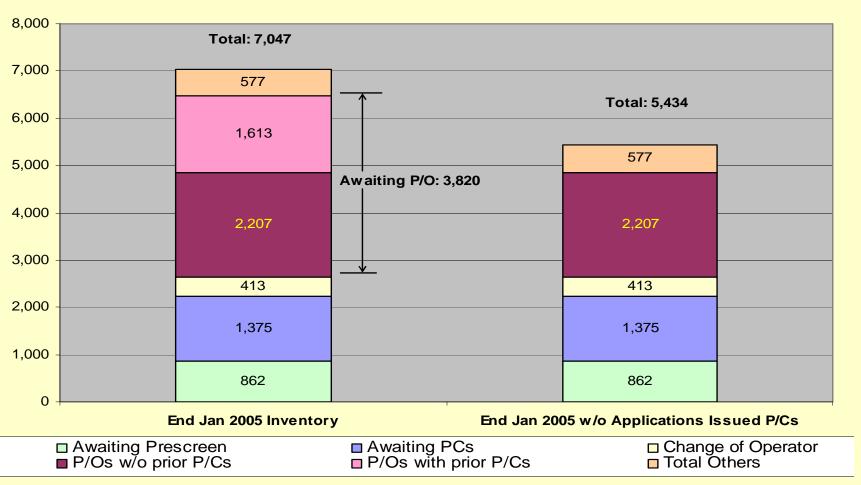
### **Applications Pending**



### Applications Received & Pending

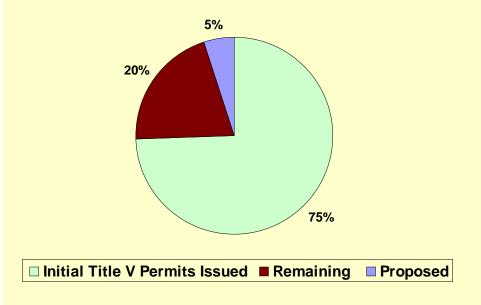


# Permit Application Inventory – End of January 2005



### Title V – Total of 785 Facilities

#### **Permitting Status**



#### **Expenditures**

	Person Hours	Cost
Initial & Revised Title V Permits	175,000	\$13 Million
Total Title V Program (Permitting, Compliance, Support)	235,000	+\$17 Million

## Summary of Past Permit Streamlining Measures

# Past Permit Streamlining Measures Summary

- Included thirty-seven recommendations grouped into the following 4 Categories:
  - □ Group A Reduce Steps Required to Issue Permits
  - □ Group B -Improve Communications Internally and Externally
  - □ Group C Optimize Permit Structure and Systems
  - □ Group D Enhance Management and Organizational Effectiveness



# Group A: Reduce Steps Required to Issue Permits

#### **Permit Application Process**

- Permit fees
  - Accept credit card payment (Discover).
  - Accept applications with 85% or more of the required processing fees.
- Pre-Screening &Tracking
  - □ Pre-screening/deem completion at project engineer's level.
  - □ Up-front receipt of acknowledgement letters.
  - □ New tracking system for applications.
- Streamlined Standard Permits

# Group A: Reduce Steps Required to Issue Permits

#### Rules Amended to Streamline Permitting

- Rule 219 and Rule 1401 were amended to clarify when permits are not required for equipment that emits toxics.
- Rule 3008- Potential to Emit Rule Exempted from Title V several thousands low-emitting facilities with actual emissions below certain thresholds.
- Regulation XVII Aligned AQMD's PSD program with federal requirements.
- Regulation XIII Amended to require BACT vs. LAER and address relocations for non-major sources.



# Group B: Improve Communications Internally & Externally

- Application Status Tracking on the Web
- Redesign of Permit Application Forms to:
  - Improve collection of needed information
  - Make them more user-friendly
- Web Page Updates to Provide:
  - □ Policies and Procedures
  - □ Sample permit evaluations
  - □ Emission factors

# Group C: Optimize Permit Structure and Systems

#### Alternate Title V Format

- New format for Non-RECLAIM facilities
- □ Permits created in Microsoft Word instead of database format
- □ Reduced the time necessary to issue Title V permits
- □ Positive feedback on format from applicants

#### Enhancing Permit Processing Systems

- Improvements to existing permit processing programs for Facility Permits and Conventional Permits.
- Improve functionalities, provide more features, and ease of use.



# Group D: Enhance Management Organizational Effectiveness

- Reorganization to Focus on Permitting
- Performed a Permit Processing Time Tracking Study
- Performed District Fee Audit Study
- Reflected the results of the above studies into fee Rule Amendments for Cost Recovery

# New Steps to Improve Permitting



### New Steps to Improve Permitting

- Better Tracking
- Elimination of bottlenecks
- Additional resources



### Better Tracking

- New monthly permit reports for managers and supervisors
- Provides monthly data on the number and type of applications received, processed and pending for each permitting team.
- Weekly applications status report to Executive Management.

#### Elimination of Bottlenecks

#### Changes made to streamline application processing

- Workload Adjustments Permit applications re-distributed to better adjust the workload with available resources
  - □ Non-RECLAIM Oil and Gas Production (from Refinery to Commercial)
  - □ Plastic Extrusion, Paint & Ink Manufacturing (from Chemical to Coatings)
- Delinquent fees Programming and workflow changes to allow Permit Services & Finance to resolve delinquent fees issues rather than engineers.
- Expedited application approval New Source Review (NSR) database cleanup and purging of inaccurate data.
- Facility Permits Improvements to the program to prevent re-sequencing of the permit conditions and allow printing of selected permit sections and processes.
- Reduce application review time Facility Permit Program changes to remove inactive applications before permit issuance (in Beta Testing).

#### Elimination of Bottlenecks (cont'd)

# Changes under implementation to further streamline application processing

- New Risk Assessment Procedures Development of new updated calculation spreadsheets to assist engineers in determining health risks
- New permit application forms will improve submittal of more complete applications
- New Programs will assist in preparation of complete permit applications
  - □ Enhanced NSR Updates for CPPs
  - □ Web based Permit Application Fee Calculator



#### Additional Resources

Hiring of 5 additional engineers

 Increase average applications processed by approximately 455 applications a year

Industry funded positions