



Permitting Enhancement Program Update

Board Meeting
February 2, 2024



Permitting Enhancement Program (PEP)

- April 2023 - Chair introduced PEP
 - Objective is to reduce the permit backlog and modernize permitting to improve processing and issuance timelines
- August 2023 - Comprehensive PEP Workplan
- Today - Six-month status update
 - Board requested update to ensure progress
 - Five PEP Elements - 21 Short and Long Term Enhancements
 - Actions in progress



PEP Workplan Outline

Presented at August 2023 Board Meeting



Staffing and Resources



Staff Development and Training



Modernization of Permitting System



Enhance Public Interface and Transparency



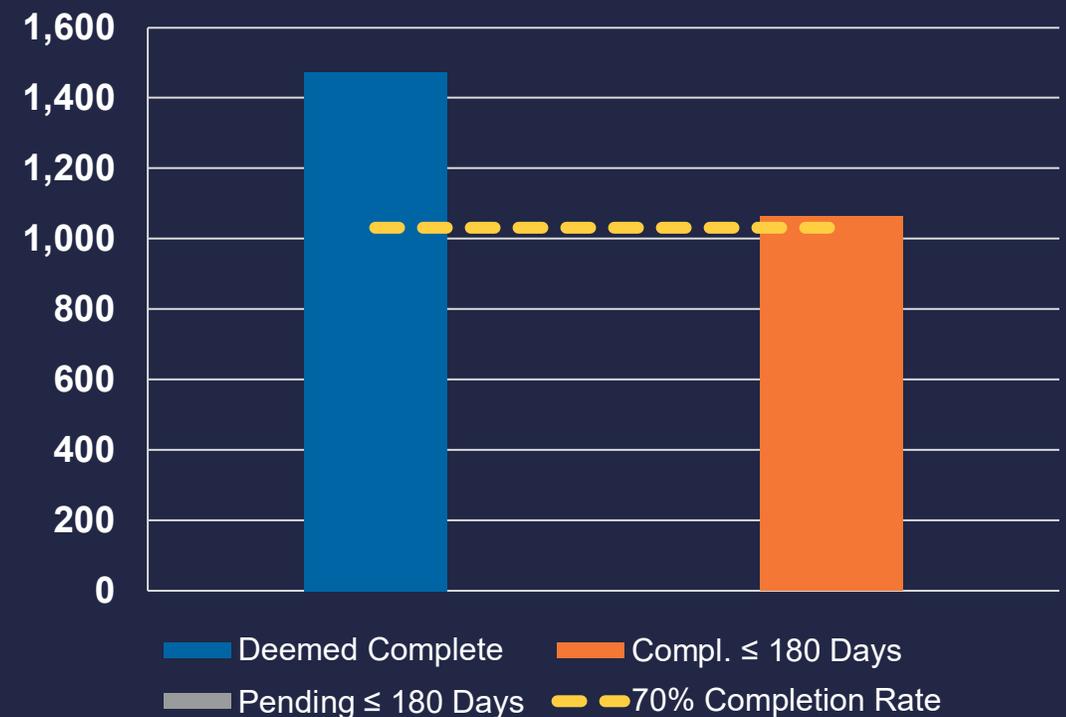
Streamlining and Efficiency Improvements

Progress Report on Permit Processing Goals

Timely Processing Goal – On Target

- Progress Report - Met or exceeded target for recent quarters (FY 23/24 Q1 and Q2)
- Most permit actions occur within first month
- Factors that extend permitting timelines:
 - Incomplete permit applications
 - Non-compliance
 - Public noticing
 - Emission offsets
 - CEQA

Timely Processing Goal
All Applications
(Q2, FY 23/24)



Rule 210 and Health and Safety Code establish 180-day period

Actions to Address Challenges in the Waste Management Team

- January 2024 Administrative Committee
 - Waste management facilities have unique permitting challenges – such as waste stream, CEQA and ongoing investigations
- Refocus on waste management team by moving Energy (Power Plant facilities) to a separate team
- Doubled Senior and Supervising Engineers
- Added contractor assistance
- Continuing to seek additional external resources
- Cross training to support Waste Management Team
- Based on comments from Clean Water SoCal and Permit Streamlining Task Force
 - Establishing a Waste Management Permitting Focus Group

Landfills

Wastewater

Organic Diversion
and Composting

Site Remediation

Battery Recycling



Actions to Further Streamline Permit Process

- Created a Special Projects Team to address legacy and most complex permits
- Initiating industry-focused listening sessions (Suggested by Permit Streamlining Task Force)
- Using third party contractors to:
 - Develop permit templates
 - Process permits
- Extending retirees' services as contractors
- New permitting guidance documents
- Developing additional permitting advisories to communicate:
 - Key requirements for applicants
 - Ensure applications submitted are complete
 - Areas that can delay permit processing





Update on Staffing Goals



Achieve and Maintain a
Vacancy Rate of 10 percent or Less

Achieved, Ongoing



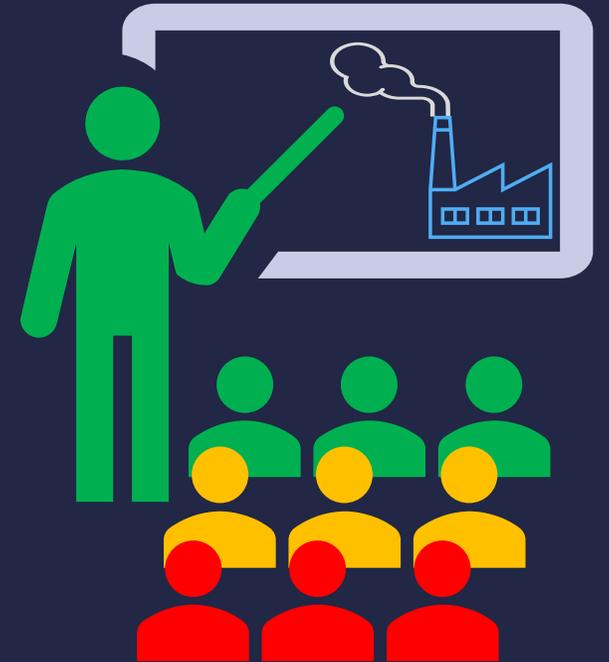
Continue Using Retired
Employees and Contractors

Achieved, Ongoing



Staff Development Actions

- Staged onboarding of new engineers
 - September and October 2023
 - Ongoing training sessions
- Increased training sessions for supervisory staff
 - Technical and supervisory training
- Industry-specific training
 - Outreach to Refineries, Wastewater Treatment, Landfill
 - Seeking additional opportunities
- Increased proposed training budget for FY 24/25





Transparency Actions

- Posted new guidance documents online
 - Gas Station Advisory
 - Addresses several deficiencies in incoming permit applications causing delays
 - Source testing guidance and permit templates for emergency engines
 - Simplifies permitting
 - Uniform source testing approach
 - Permit condition templates
- New Permitting Sign-Up List
 - Increased communication with public and industry
 - Announce PEP tools, advisories, guidance
 - www.aqmd.gov/sign-up





Modernization Actions

NEW

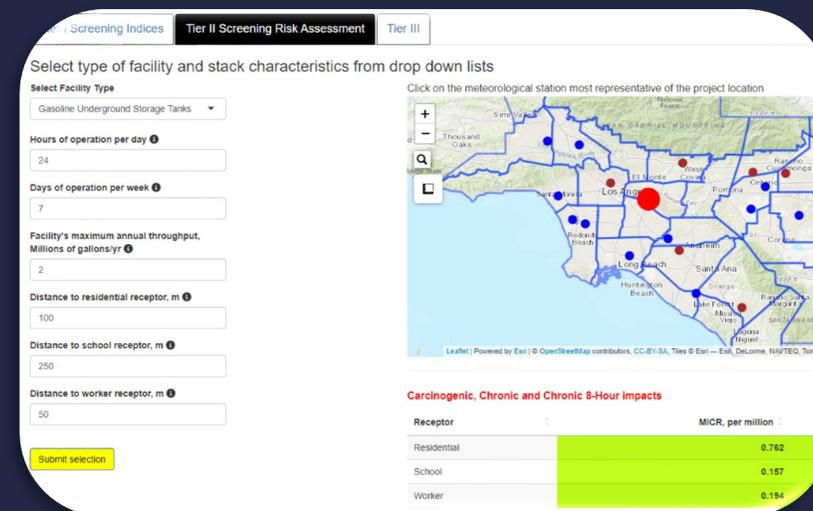
Modernized Health Risk Assessment (HRA) Tool

- Developed to address time intensive HRA process
- Added look up tables for E85 and mobile fuelers
 - Tables simplify permit process for applicants
- Full launch estimated 4Q 2024
 - Beta test volunteers

NEW

Expand Online Application Filing

- New Automated Emergency IC Engine Permitting Module
- Launched in 2023
- Available for Certified Engine Permitting for smaller engines and certain locations
- Eligible permit applicants can apply, pay, and receive their permit in less than an hour





Next steps

- Next PEP Board Update: Q3 2024
- Reporting progress of PEP action items
 - Highlights on one year target action items
 - Status on longer term action items
- Utilize additional contractors
- Permit Streamlining Task Force
 - Q2 and Q4 2024
 - Additional Waste Management focused meetings