



Director's Report for March 2024

Meeting Date: April 11, 2024
Department: Director's Office
www.lrapa.org

Agenda Item No. 12
Staff Contact: Travis Knudsen
541-736-1056 ext. 217

March 2024 AQI CHARTS AND STATS:

Site	Date	Max AQI	Pollutant
Eug/Spfld	18-Mar-24	52	PM
Oak	16-Mar-24	55	PM
CottGrv	18-Mar-24	55	PM

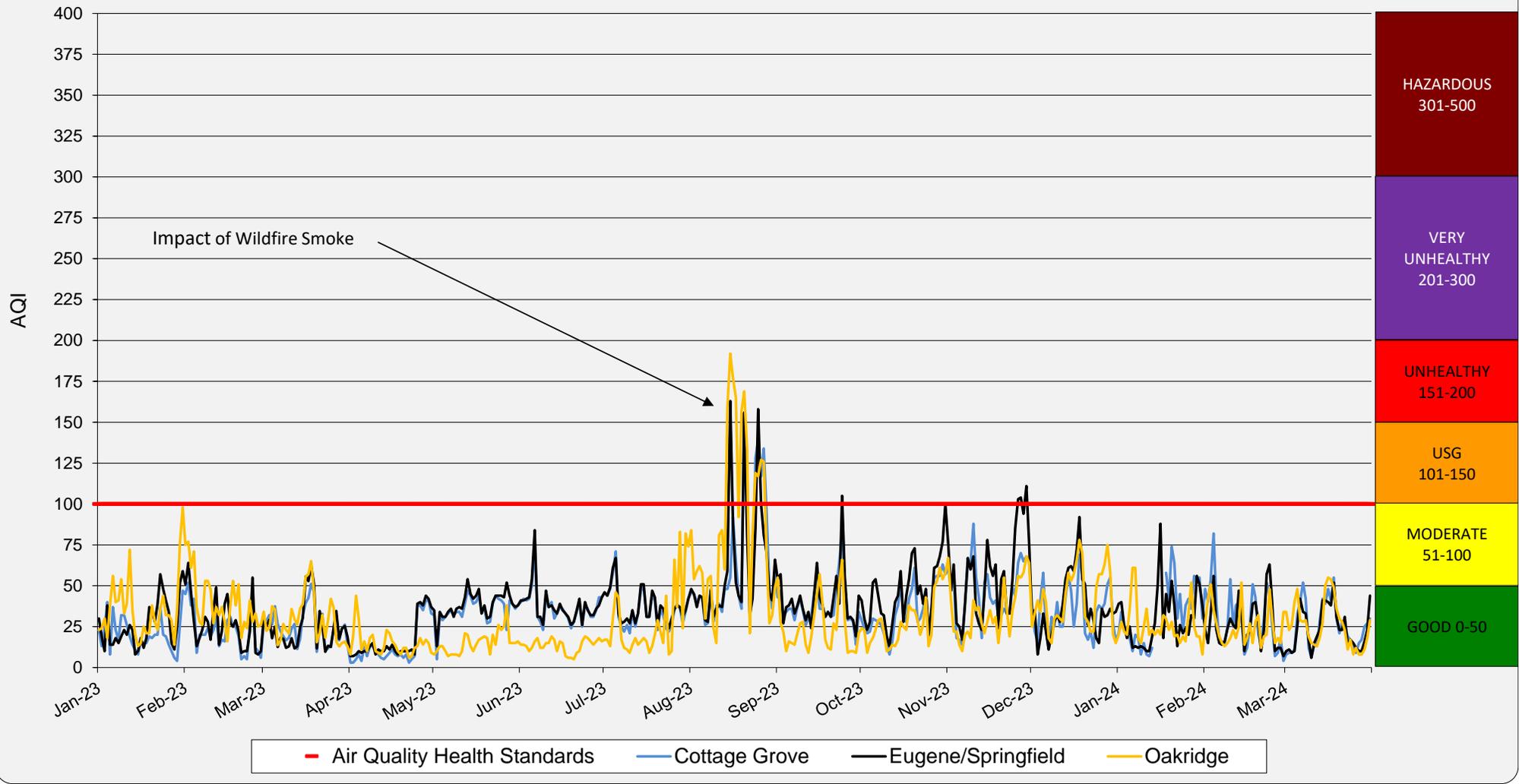
AQI	Eug/Spfld	Oak	CottGrv	AQI Range	PM2.5 Range, ug/m3
Good	30	29	29	0-50	0-12
Moderate	1	2	2	51-100	12.1-35.4
USG	0	0	0	101-150	35.5-55.4
Unhealthy	0	0	0	151-200	55.5-150.4
Very Unhealthy	0	0	0	201-300	150.5-250.4
Hazardous	0	0	0	301-500	250.5-500

Attachment No. 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) charts for Lane County (March 2024)

Attachment No. 2: PM2.5 index charts for Lane County (March 2024)

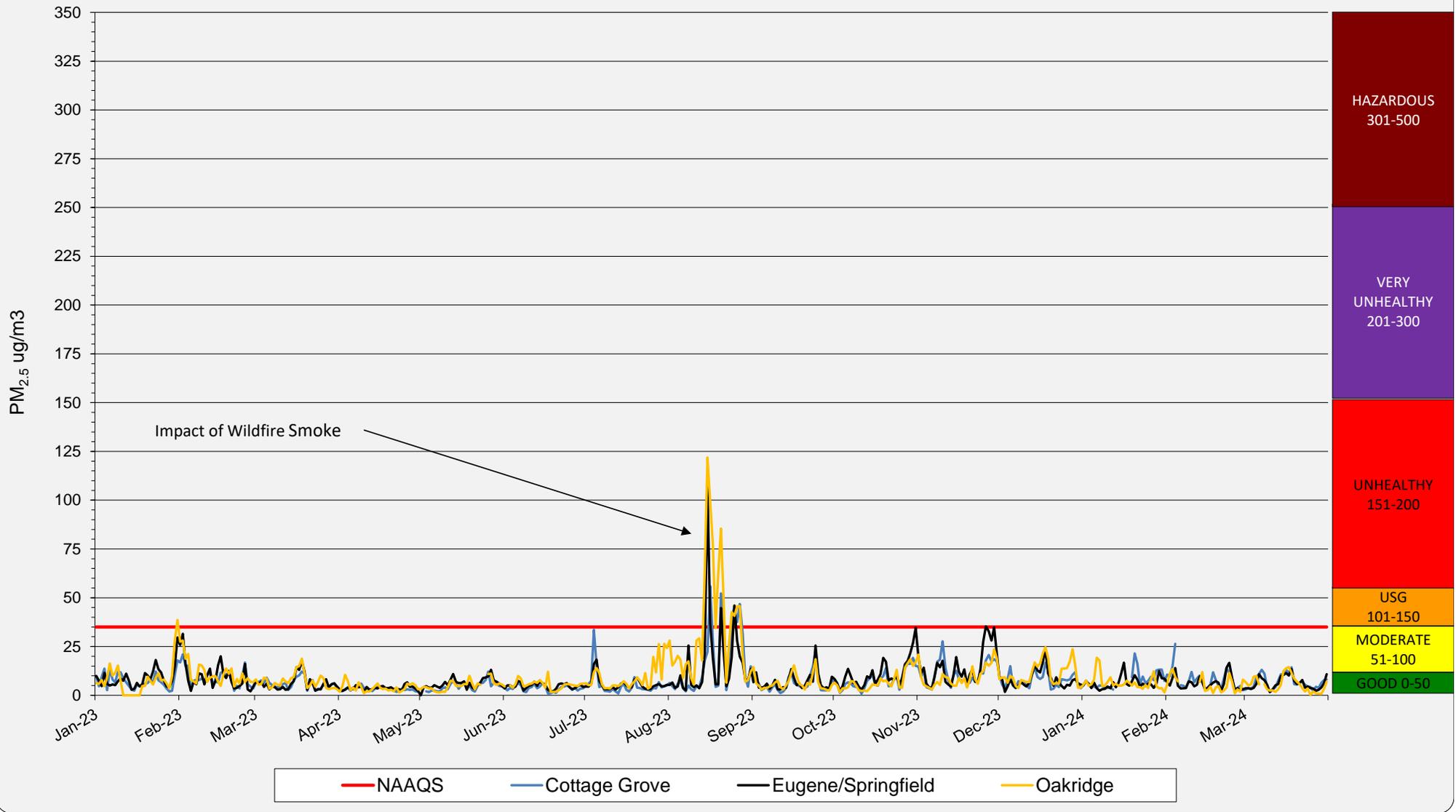
Daily Air Quality Index Chart

This 15-month chart demonstrates the seasonality of the pollutants.



Daily PM2.5 Levels

Daily Sampling, NAAQS Exceedance is Triggered on the 8th High



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: 3/1/2024 thru 3/31/2024:

Smoke complaints: 41
21 - Outdoor Burning
3 - Home Wood Heating
2 – Recreational Fires
Industry: 7
3 - International Paper (3 under investigation)
4 - Swanson Group
Fugitive Dust
1 – Heather Oak Wood Products
Miscellaneous:
1 – Union Pacific Eugene Yard
1 – Brooks Auto Machine Shop
5 - Unknown
Total: 41

The calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Dust	15	17	26	12	7	1
Ag Burning / Spraying	6	2	7	2	3	0
General Air Quality	12	4	8	1	25	9
Home Wood Heating	128	74	57	67	52	17
Industry	170	100	336	198	97	20
Outdoor Burning	402	423	243	292	254	53
Slash Burning	16	12	10	6	12	0
Miscellaneous	67	59	40	102	72	3
Unknown	39	74	71	45	65	18
Total	855	765	798	725	587	121

* Year-To-Date

NEW/OPEN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS STATUS REPORT
3/1/2024 to 3/31/2024

NEW: 3/01/2024 -- 3/31/2024: None.

Calendar year 2024 compared to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Notices of Non-compliance and Warnings	55	15	21	24	19	0
Notices of Violation with Civil Penalties	37	26	17	24	15	0

* Year-To-Date.

ENFORCEMENT: 3/01/2024 to 3/31/2024

Category of Violation	New	Follow-Up Action	Pending	Closed	Total
Asbestos	-	-	4	-	4
Industrial	-	-	3	-	3
Outdoor Burning	-	-	2	-	2
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	-
Home Wood Heating	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	9	-	9

The complete enforcement report document is published on LRAPA’s Publication Reports and Factsheets [webpage](#).

OUTDOOR BURNING LETTER PERMITS: 3/01/2024 TO 3/31/2024

There was one Outdoor Burning Letter Permit (OBLP) issued in March 2024.

1. Issued Special Letter Permit 20B24-03-01 on March 20 to Brian Allender, 34977 McKenzie View Drive in Springfield, Oregon, to burn 10 cubic yards of tree limbs and branches relative to land clearing debris located at the same address.

ASBESTOS

ABATEMENT: 3/01/2024 to 3/31/2024

During March, LRAPA received 38 notices of asbestos removal projects, one of which was a school (Fern Ridge Middle School, Elmira).

For perspective, here is how the total number of asbestos abatement notices filed, how many were schools and the number of notices inspected for calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Calendar year 2024 compares to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Total Asbestos Abatement Notices	488	439	408	465	466	113
School Asbestos Abatement Notices (NESHAP)	16	25	20	16	17	2
Number of Asbestos Abatements Inspected	94	93	104	115	91	15

* Year-To-Date.

PERMITTING (TITLE V AND ACDP):

- Currently 14 sources, Title V permits
- Currently approximately 275 sources, air Contaminant Discharge Permits (ACDPs)

Permit activities:

Category of Permit Activity	Title V	ACDP	Registration	Total Active
New	2	5		7
Renewals	2	16		18
Modifications		6		6
Constructions				
Registrations				
Terminated Permits				
Total Issued Permits Year-to-date	3	12		15

Permits placed on public notice:

Source Name	Reason for Public Notice	Type of Permit
OR-CAL, Inc.	New ACDP	Changing from Simple High to Simple Low ACDP.

Permit backlog:

Permit Type	Total Number of Permits by Type	Number of Permits Extended Administratively	Percentage of Total (%)
Title V	14	0	0%
Standard	26	2	7%
Simple	28	8	29%
Total	68	10	15%

MEDIA INTEREST AND OUTREACH

Media	DATE	MEDIA	REPORTER	TOPIC
Contacts	3/28/2024	Oregon News Service	Eric Tegethoff	Air Quality Awareness Week
	3/28/2024	KVAL	Juliette Smith	Spring Allergy Season
Press Releases	n/a	n/a		

AGENCY GOALS AND UPDATES

In January 2022, the Board established the following goals to drive LRAPA’s efforts in protecting public health, community well-being, and the environment. Below is an overview of each goal, accompanied by recent updates and milestones, with specific focus on activities in March, 2024.

1. Oakridge/Westfir Air Quality Improvement

Objective: Seek EPA approval to improve air quality in Oakridge/Westfir.

- Following the redesignation of Oakridge in September 2022, LRAPA continues to implement two targeted airshed grants in the area to further improve progress.

2. Internal Efficiency Enhancement

Objective: Streamline internal processes and policies for improved efficiency.

- An internal focus on policies and procedures continues, with staff feedback identifying areas for improvement. The immediate effort is on reviewing and enhancing LRAPA’s organizational logic and filing processes to improve information access and reviewability of past efforts and decisions.

3. Pre-Budget Planning

Objective: Plan ahead for budget committee meetings to ensure financial stability.

- Despite challenges due to executive and financial management changes, LRAPA remains engaged in the budget cycle. The proposed budget is complete, and the agency’s engagement with the budget committee is on track to adopt a budget in May or June.

4. Financial Stability Assessment

Objective: Evaluate LRAPA’s costs and explore funding sources for long-term stability.

- LRAPA’s budget forecast and assumptions indicate the agency’s finances are stable.

5. Website Redesign

Objective: Improve LRAPA's website for better user access to air quality information.

- Following the website redesign in September 2022, ongoing improvements include the Citizen Advisory Committee review and enhancement the application page and questions, and the website vendor improving background efficiencies and SEO scores.

6. Community Engagement

Objective: Increase interaction with communities to raise air quality awareness.

- LRAPA continues to engage collaboratively with various stakeholders on soil remediation activities concerning J.H. Baxter in West Eugene. The agency also participated in a [University of Oregon study](#) on wildfire and prescribed fire smoke communication.

7. Collaboration and Partnerships

Objective: Strengthen relationships with local communities and industry for problem-solving.

- LRAPA has engaged with Homes for Good and South Willamette Solutions to explore expanding home heating interventions in Oakridge. LRAPA has also been engaged with local partners across Lane County in several regional collaborative groups and committees. March meetings or engagements included participation with the Lane Regional Climate Collaborative, Oakridge Area Fire Safe Council, and Lane County Healthy Housing Collaborative.

8. Funding Source Diversification

Objective: Seek new funding opportunities to support air quality programs.

- LRAPA is working with DEQ to strategically engage Oregon legislators on increasing general fund support, focusing on smoke management, administrative aid, and upgrading internal database systems for the 2025 legislative session.

9. Airmetrics Enterprise Evaluation

Objective: Assess the effectiveness of Airmetrics in monitoring air quality.

- Following the board's decision in late 2022 and 2023, Airmetrics is in the process of closing remaining operations. LRAPA plans to retain the Airmetrics location for storage during the agency's remodel.

10. Complaint Intake Process Improvement

Objective: Enhance the process for receiving and responding to air quality complaints.

- LRAPA has revised the internal complaint entry user interface in LINFO to streamline the process for staff to enter complaints and investigation results.

11. Regulatory Engagement

Objective: Stay updated on air quality regulations through engagement with relevant organizations.

- LRAPA participated in the Performance Partnership Agreement meeting between DEQ

and EPA, highlighting the agency's low permitting backlog, grant efforts, and regional climate collaboration. LRAPA also advocated for increased federal support to address the growing number of wildfire smoke intrusions in Lane County.

12. Succession Planning and Staff Training

Objective: Prepare for staff transitions through succession planning and training.

- LRAPA staff have coordinated and prepared the posting for an air quality inspector position that became vacant in mid-March, with the job posting scheduled for early April.

TENTATIVE UPCOMING LRAPA BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

This schedule outline is a preview of anticipated upcoming agenda items.

May 2024

- Budget Committee Meeting
- Approve FY25 Budget
- Oakridge Air Status Report
- Annual Report Review
- Dashboard Report
- Possible Special Session Executive Director Interviews & hire

June 2024

- Adopt FY25 Budget
- Employee Longevity Recognition
- Review Board Goals (Specific, Measurable)
- Year-end overview of pre-audit financials
- Remodel Update

July 2024

- QR 3 & 4 Financial Update