



# Air District Updates: Building Momentum

Annual BACWA Meeting

**May 15, 2026**

**Janet Whittick**

**Engineering Program Manager | Engineering Division**

**AGENDA:**

The right side of the slide features decorative wavy lines. There are two columns of these lines. The top column consists of four white wavy lines, and the bottom column consists of four light blue wavy lines. The word "AGENDA:" is positioned at the top right of the slide, above the wavy lines.

# Presentation Outline

1. Strategic Plan – A Framework for Improvement
2. Recent Performance Metrics
3. Progress to Date – Building Momentum
  - Staffing, Strategic Resource Allocation
  - Priority Efforts
  - Special Projects

## Bay Area Air Quality Management District

2024-2029  
Strategic Plan

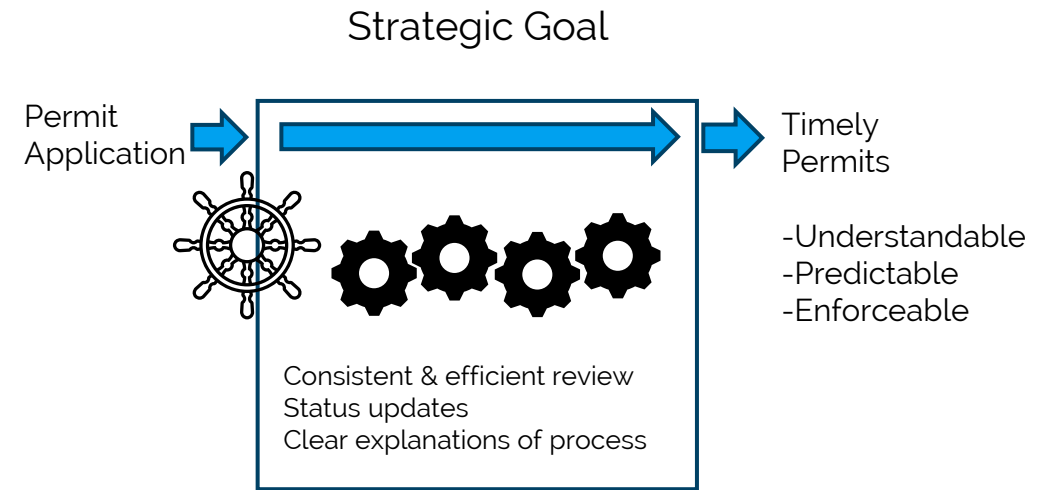
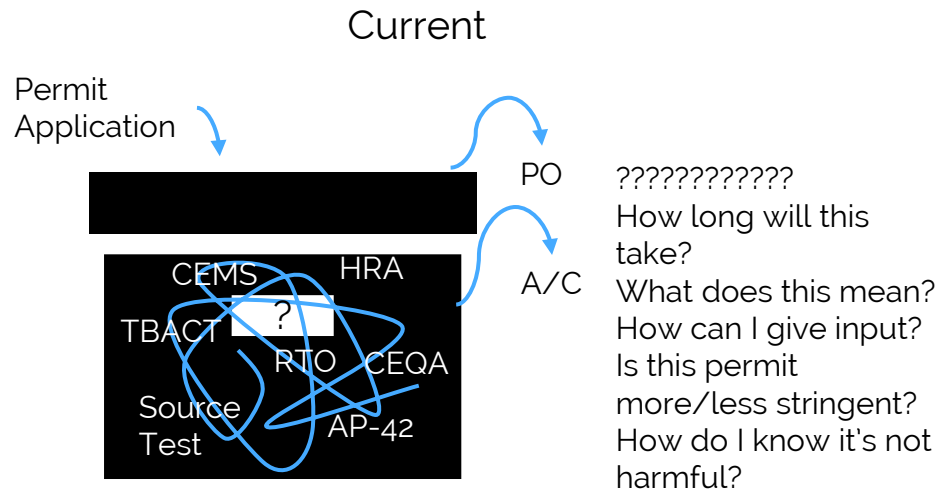


# Goal 4: Be Effective, Accountable, and Customer-Oriented

**4.1 Timely Permits:** We will improve the timeliness of our permitting decisions.

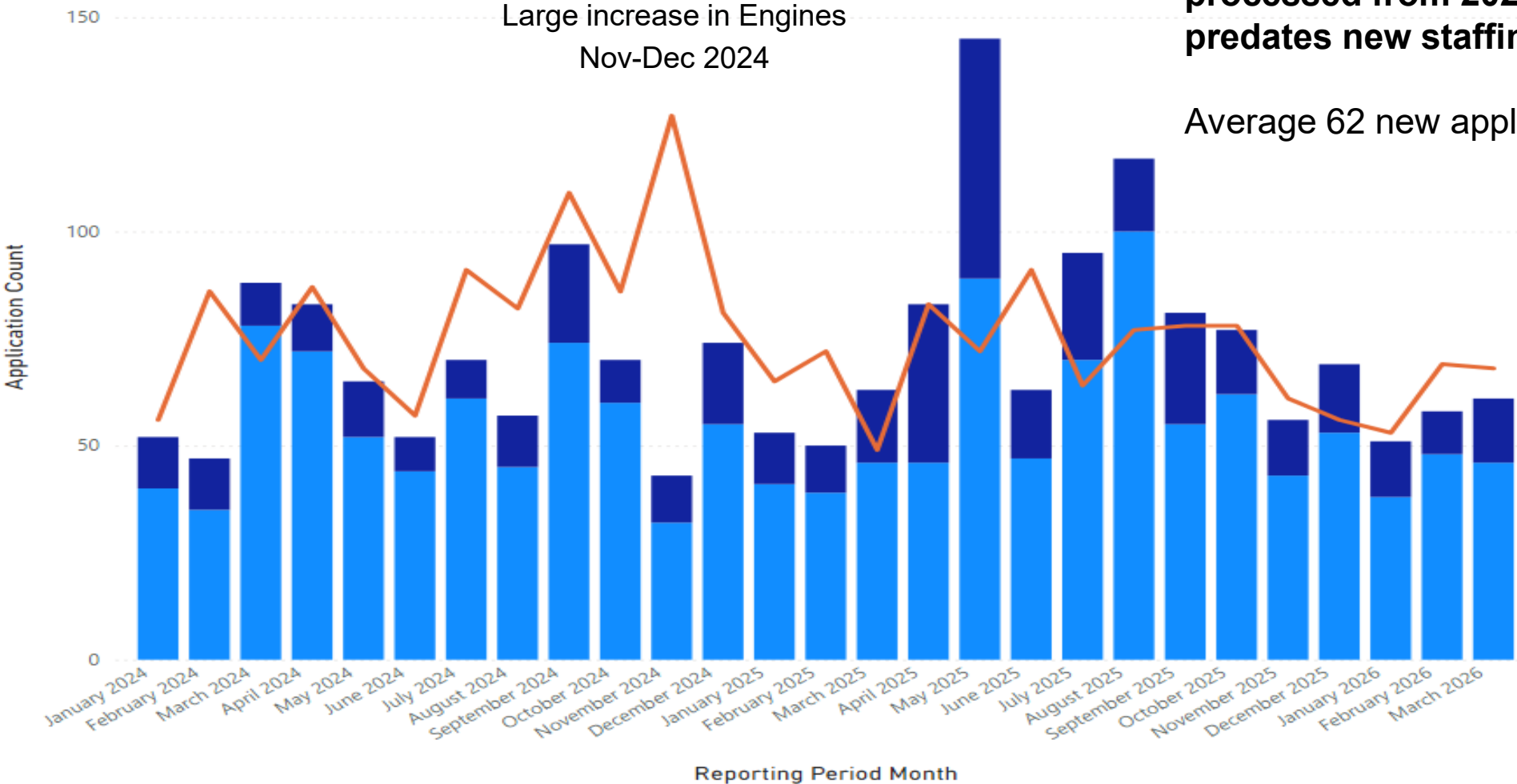
**4.2 Transparent Permit Process:** We will improve our permitting process to be more transparent and accountable to applicants and the public.

**4.3 Consistent Permits:** We will ensure Air District rules and associated air quality permits issued are clear, consistent, and enforceable so that air pollution affecting communities is minimized.



# Recent Metrics: In vs. Out (2024-2026)Oo

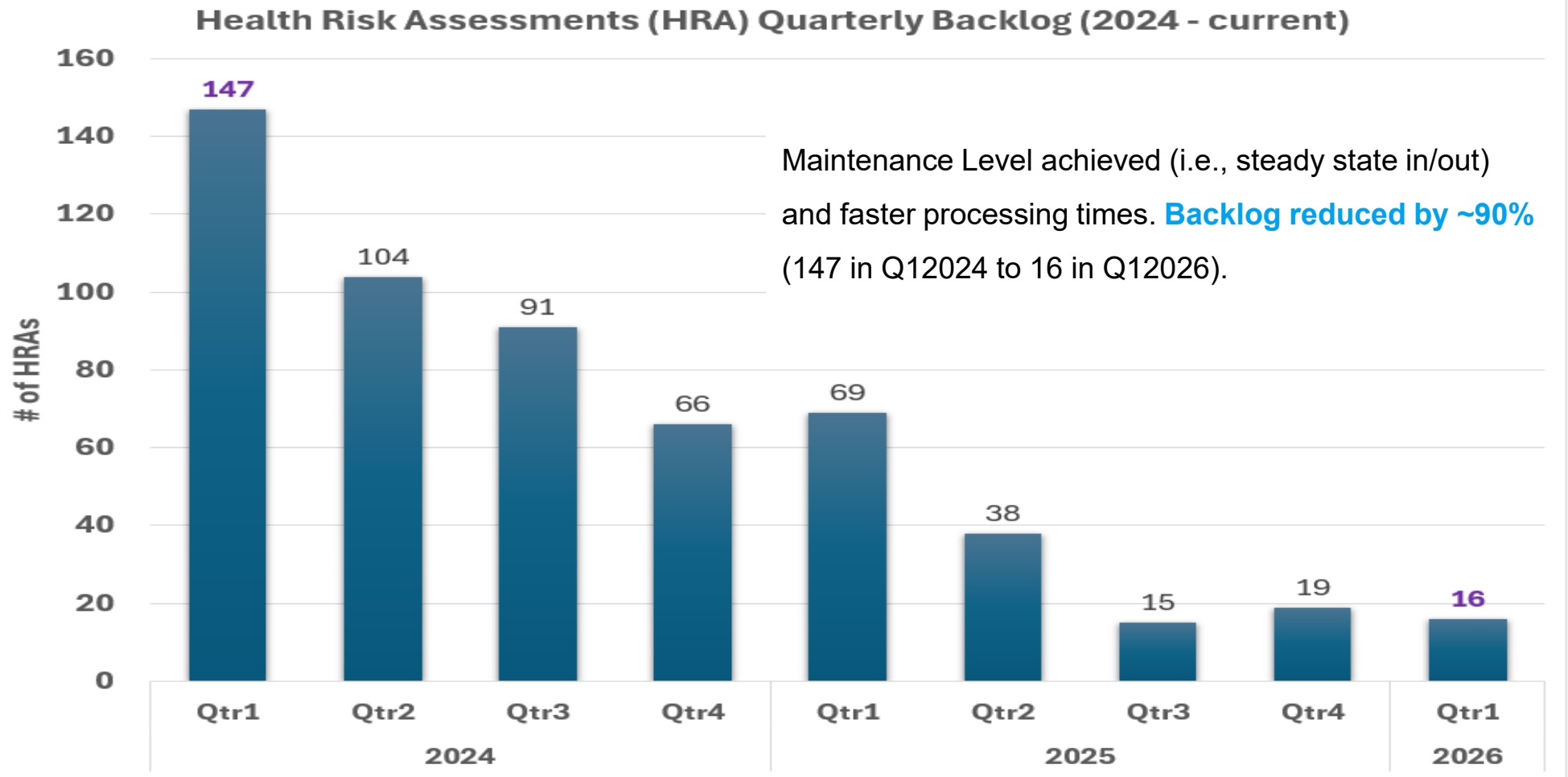
● Approved ● Canceled/Withdrawn/Denied ● Submitted



**17% increase in number of applications processed from 2024 to 2025 – predates new staffing investment**

Average 62 new applications per month

# Recent Metrics: Health Risk Assessments in Queue



# Backlog Reduction Goal

---

## Three-Year Plan

- Clear out legacy permit applications by 2028
- Maintenance Level for standard permit applications by 2028 (e.g., engines, coatings)
- Maintenance Level for complex permit applications by 2029

*Assumes all positions approved by the Board are staffed and trained by the end of 2026. This includes 15 Full Time Equivalents and 14 Limited Term Contract Equivalents (3-years).*

# Progress to Date: Building Momentum

---

Increase Staffing (15/14/7) → 45% of new positions filled since September

Performance Tracking → New management dashboards, backlog goal set

**My Air Online Upgrades** → Modernized online system, beginning AI deployment

## Policy & Program Updates

Backup Engine Policy (2022, 2024) → Tier 4 BACT, minimizes need for HRAs or Source Tests

Reg. 2 Revisions, cleanup → Phase I in 2026, Phase II in 2027 and beyond

Rule 11-18 Revisions → Engineering Division resources can be realigned

## Special Projects

**Permitting Efficiency Taskforce** → Launched in January with Board Ad Hoc

**EPM Pilot Program** → Beta test period, launching in July

# My Air Online/Production & Compliance System Upgrades

---

## Completed or Ongoing

- PCS → Management dashboards, status tracking
- All renewals and application submittals online

## Near-Term Upgrades

- **Embedded** MAO Applicant-Air District **communications** with time stamping and automated records management
- Further upgrades to online submittals
- **Source Test and HRA portals coming soon**
- Automated notifications & reminders, e.g., Authority to Construct & Start-up



# Permitting Efficiency Taskforce & BOD Ad Hoc

---

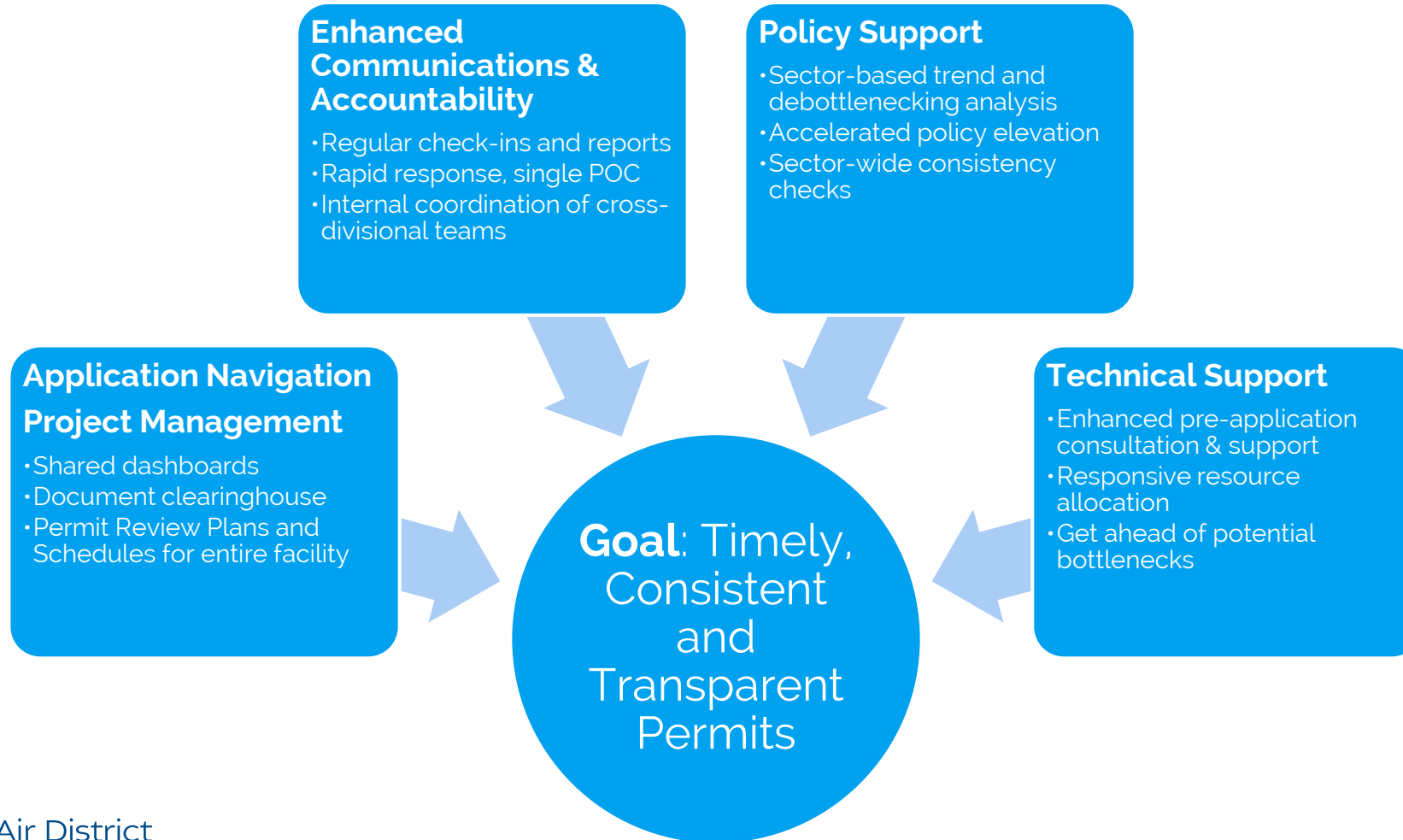
## Permitting Efficiency Taskforce

- Members represent facilities, associations (e.g., BACWA), engineering firms, local communities, and NGOs
- Ongoing dialogue to inform process, policy and rule changes, understand impacts on communities and applicants
- Meets monthly, with listen-only access for non-members

## BOD Ad Hoc on Permitting

- Board established in September 2025
- Directors Adams (Contra Costa), Gioia (Contra Costa), Gonzalez (Alameda), Haubert (Alameda), Medina (Santa Clara), and Tam (Alameda)
- Meets bimonthly, with quarterly meetings with the Taskforce

# Engineering Program Manager Pilot Program



# Questions?

## **Janet Whittick**

Engineering Program Manager

[jwhittick@baaqmd.gov](mailto:jwhittick@baaqmd.gov)

415.749.4726

# Air Permitting Background

# What Are Air Permits?



Federal Clean Air Act and National Air Quality Standards

CA Health & Safety Code and CA Air Quality Standards

The Air District is responsible for achieving air quality standards in the region and for implementing state and federal laws related to the control of stationary source emissions of criteria pollutants (ozone, nitrogen dioxide sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter and lead) and air toxics.

To do this, the Air District adopts rules and regulations for new and existing stationary sources. **New and modified sources are permitted** at the project-level to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements.

Air permits are distinct from local land use approvals, although both may be subject to CEQA.

# Who Needs a Permit?

---

Stationary sources that emit air pollution and are subject to air quality regulations typically require a permit. The nine-county region has ~10,000 facilities with about 26,000 devices that require Air District permits.



# Permitting Process Overview

