

2022

Annual Review: Permitting, Policy, and Enforcement





Overview

The goal of Imperial County Air Pollution Control District’s Annual review is to track measureable increments of progress from the Compliance Division and Permitting Division. Currently, the District’s compliance program has a strong foundation. The District’s four compliance inspectors visit 700 to 800 District issued permits at least once per year. In addition, the inspectors visit eight Title V facilities and nine synthetic minor sources at least twice per year. The District’s compliance staff responds to air quality complaints submitted by the public, and typically investigates the alleged emission source or activity within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. District compliance staff will issue Notices of Violations (NOV) and Notices to Comply (NTC) whenever a violation of a permit, regulation, or statute is identified.

The District’s three permitting engineers process permit applications, and work with applicants to gather the new or modified emission source’s specifications. The permitting staff reviews existing permitted equipment for their potential to emit and reviews permit’s conditions to ensure they meet current air quality standards and regulations. The District’s permitting staff maintains emission inventories for actively permitted sources, and reports this data to California Air Resources Board.

Permitting Summary

In 2022, the District’s Permitting Division continued to enhance conditions for Permits to Operate within the AB 617 Calexico-Heber-El Centro Corridor. In 2022, approximately 80% of the 267 permitted sources in this Corridor received revised conditions. The revisions focused on the following elements: Clear and Descriptive Language, Operational Parameters, Referencing External Certifications and Protocols, and Self-Inspection, Maintenance, and Recordkeeping. The permits in the Corridor cover a wide range of facility types, including geothermal, agriculture, asphalt and aggregate, gasoline distribution and dispensing, food processing, and coatings.





Policy Summary

In 2022, the District’s Compliance Division presented new and modified policies at the AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC) meetings for El Centro-Heber-Calexico. The presentations served as an opportunity to inform the community of the District’s staff roles, responsibilities, and procedures when determining compliance at facilities. During the community meetings, the members and public were able to provide feedback. After discussions and comprehensive staff reviews, the District posted updated policies on the main website. The current policies can be found under the “Rules and Regulations” section of the website. (<https://apcd.imperialcounty.org/rules-and-regulations/>).

2022 Updated ICAPCD Policies Presented to AB 617 Community Steering Committee		
Presentation Date	Policy Number	Policy Name
April 6, 2022	23	Safety While Conducting Inspections
April 6, 2022	25	When and How to Obtain an Inspection Warrant
July 13, 2022	10	Staff Support for Hearing Board
July 13, 2022	24	Access to the Facility
July 13, 2022	26	The Unannounced Inspection
July 13, 2022	28	Notice to Comply - Administrative Guidelines
September 14, 2022	1	Permit Application Guidelines for Applicant
September 14, 2022	2	Guidelines for Staff Processing of Permit Applications
November 9, 2022	16	Inspection Procedures and Guidelines
November 9, 2022	16A	Approval, Observation, and Evaluation of Source Tests



Enforcement Summary

2022 Enforcement Statistics District-Wide & Within AB 617 Corridor		
	Imperial County District-Wide	AB 617 Corridor (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)
Total Permitted Sources	775	267
Total Inspections Conducted	766	267
Notice of Violation (NOV)	190	64
Notice to Comply (NTC)	104	31
Non-Compliance Rate	13.42%	16.10%
Complaints	132	57

Permit Inspections

- In 2022, the District’s Enforcement Division completed 766 inspections out of 775 active permitted sources. The permitted sources not receiving an inspection, was due to scheduling conflicts or changes with the permit’s responsible agent.

Enforcement Action

- In 2022, the District’s Enforcement Division issued 104 Notices to Comply (NTC’s) and 190 Notices of Violation (NOV’s).
- The District’s Enforcement Division has resolved ninety-eight percent (98%) of violations issued in 2022. None of the unresolved violations are undergoing litigation with Imperial County’s counsel.
- In 2022, the non-compliance rate for permitted facilities was 13.42%.
- In 2022, the total monetary value of penalties collected was \$100,150.

Complaints

- In 2022, the District’s Enforcement Division received 132 complaints.
- All complaints submitted to the District received a response within 24 hours of submission with a physical inspection and/or a phone call to the source and the reporting party.
- There were twelve (12) Notice of Violation(s) issued as a result of complaints submitted, and zero (0) Notice to Comply(s) issued as a result of complaints submitted.