



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: July 11, 2024

Meeting Date: July 16, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Steve Adams, Policy Director – Lane County
Travis Knudsen, Executive Director - Lane Regional Air
Protection Agency

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: REPORT/ Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

I. MOTION

Not applicable.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This item is an informational report to the Board from Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) and an introduction to their new executive director, Travis Knudsen.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Not applicable.

B. Policy Issues

Not applicable.

C. Board Goals

Not applicable.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Not applicable.

E. Health Implications

Not applicable.

F. Analysis

Lane County faces significant air quality issues, impacting public health and environmental well-being. Key pollution sources include outdoor burning, residential wood heating, and industrial emissions. Addressing these problems is critical to prevent respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, especially among vulnerable populations. Short-term effects include increased hospital visits, while long-term effects encompass reduced life expectancy and higher healthcare costs. Implementing stricter regulations and enhancing community engagement are vital steps towards improving air quality.

Travis Knudsen, former Chief Meteorologist at KVAL, has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA). With over a decade of experience in meteorology and a background in public affairs, Knudsen brings valuable expertise in communicating complex air quality issues and engaging the public. His leadership is expected to enhance LRAPA's efforts in protecting air quality in Lane County.

IV. Alternatives/Options

Not applicable.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

VI. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Not applicable.

VII. FOLLOW-UP

Not applicable.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

None.



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Enhancing Air Quality and Community Health:
A Collaborative Partnership, LRAPA and Lane County

Travis Knudsen
Executive Director
Travis@lrapa.org

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LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Safeguarding Air Quality for Lane County

Who We Are

LRAPA, established in 1968, is dedicated to protecting public health by improving and maintaining air quality in Lane County.

Our Responsibilities

We ensure environmental quality by monitoring air, implementing programs, issuing permits, and enforcing regulations.



Monitoring Services

LRAPA operates an expanded network of regulatory-grade and commercial-grade monitors to provide comprehensive air quality data.

The Local Benefit

As a local agency, LRAPA service includes engagement of the local community and businesses in decisions about air quality that affect the County's airsheds.

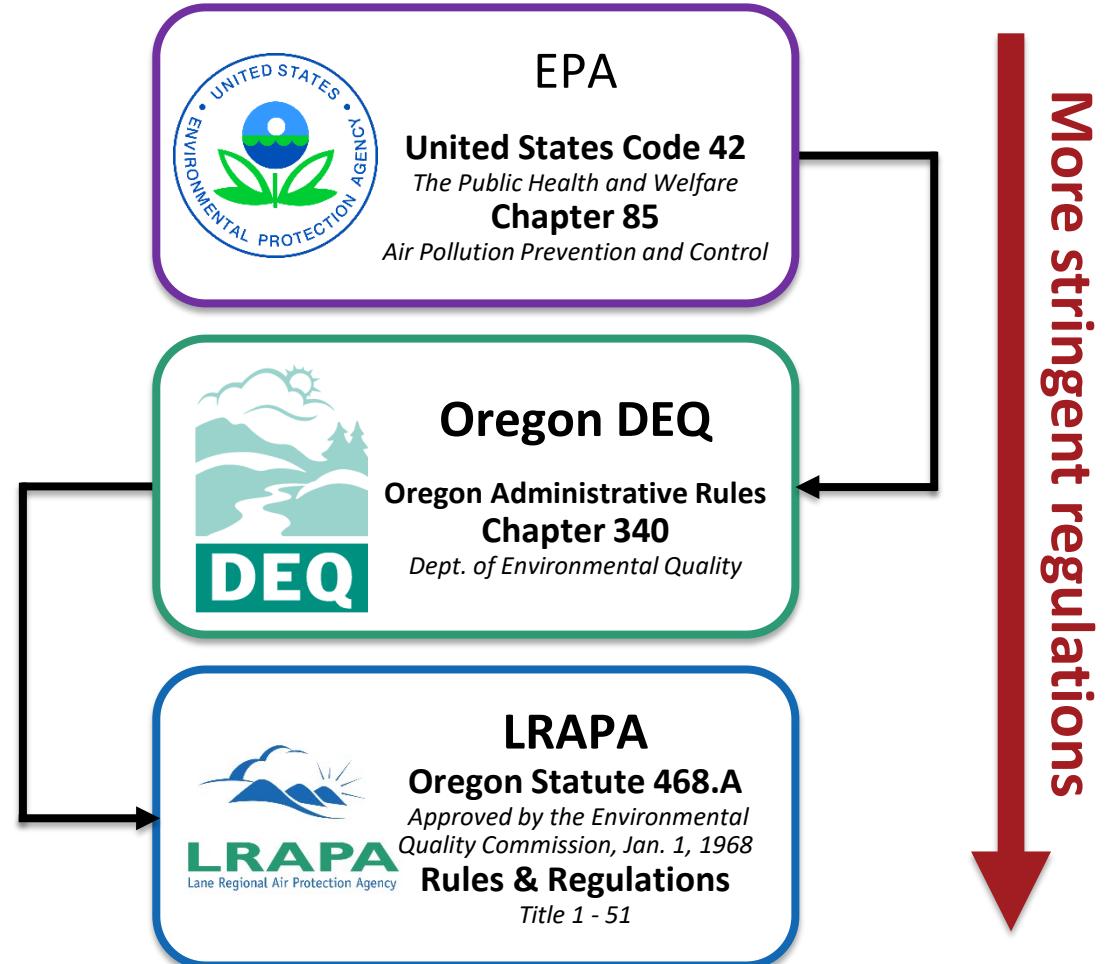


LRAPA's role under the Clean Air Act (CAA)

The Clean Air Act is federal law that regulates whether and how certain pollutants may be released into the atmosphere. The act sets mandatory minimum standards in the US.

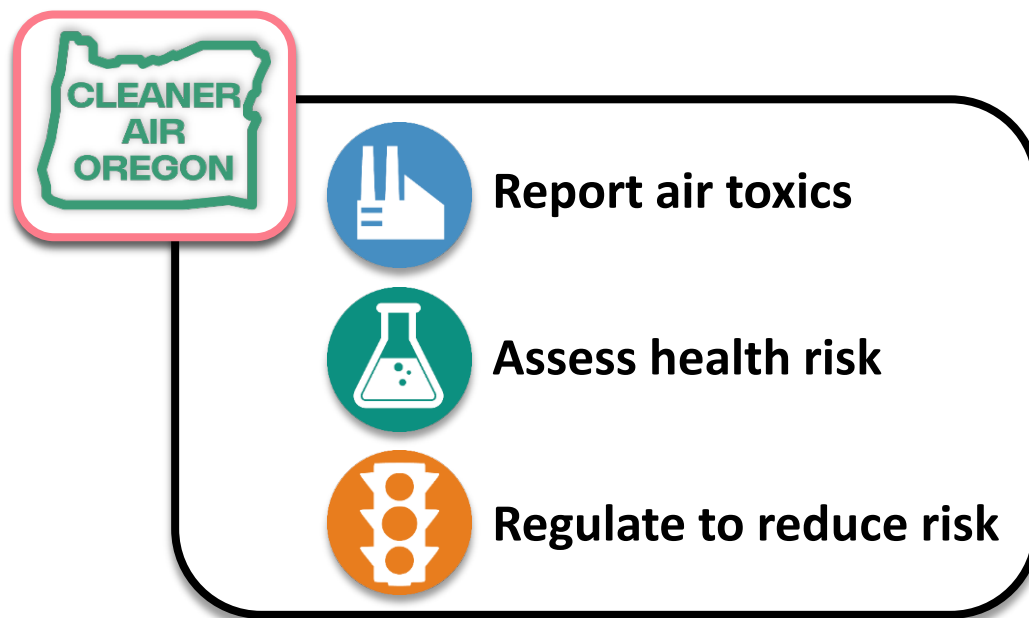
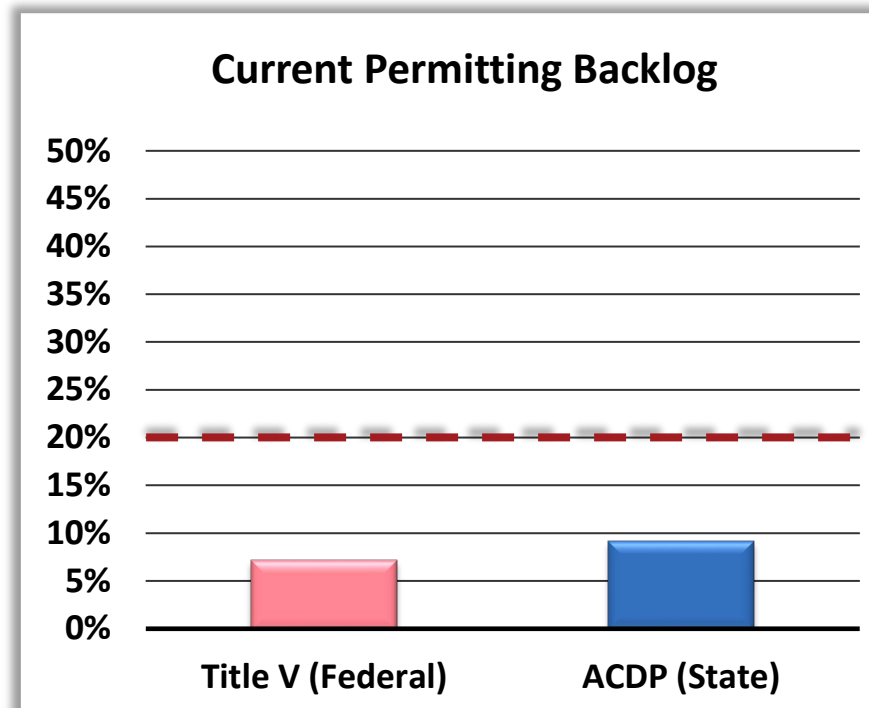
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality enforces the Clean Air Act in Oregon. DEQ has also created more stringent air pollution protection programs.

Lane County, and the cities of Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, and Oakridge entered into an intergovernmental agreement founding LRAPA as a local authority to implement regional air quality planning, monitoring, and stationary source and facility permitting.



Guiding Regulatory Compliance

LRAPA partners with Lane County businesses to navigate Oregon's changing environmental rules. By working with Lane County sources, LRAPA can offer a more tailored and prompt response. This approach leads to the creation of better-structured and more effective permits.



Air Quality Complaints & Enforcement

LRAPA accepts and responds to Air Quality Complaints throughout Lane County.

In 2023, 553 air quality complaints were submitted to LRAPA.

In a typical year LRAPA responds to approximately 250 outdoor burning complaints.

LRAPA regulates outdoor burning season in Lane County and responds to complaints.

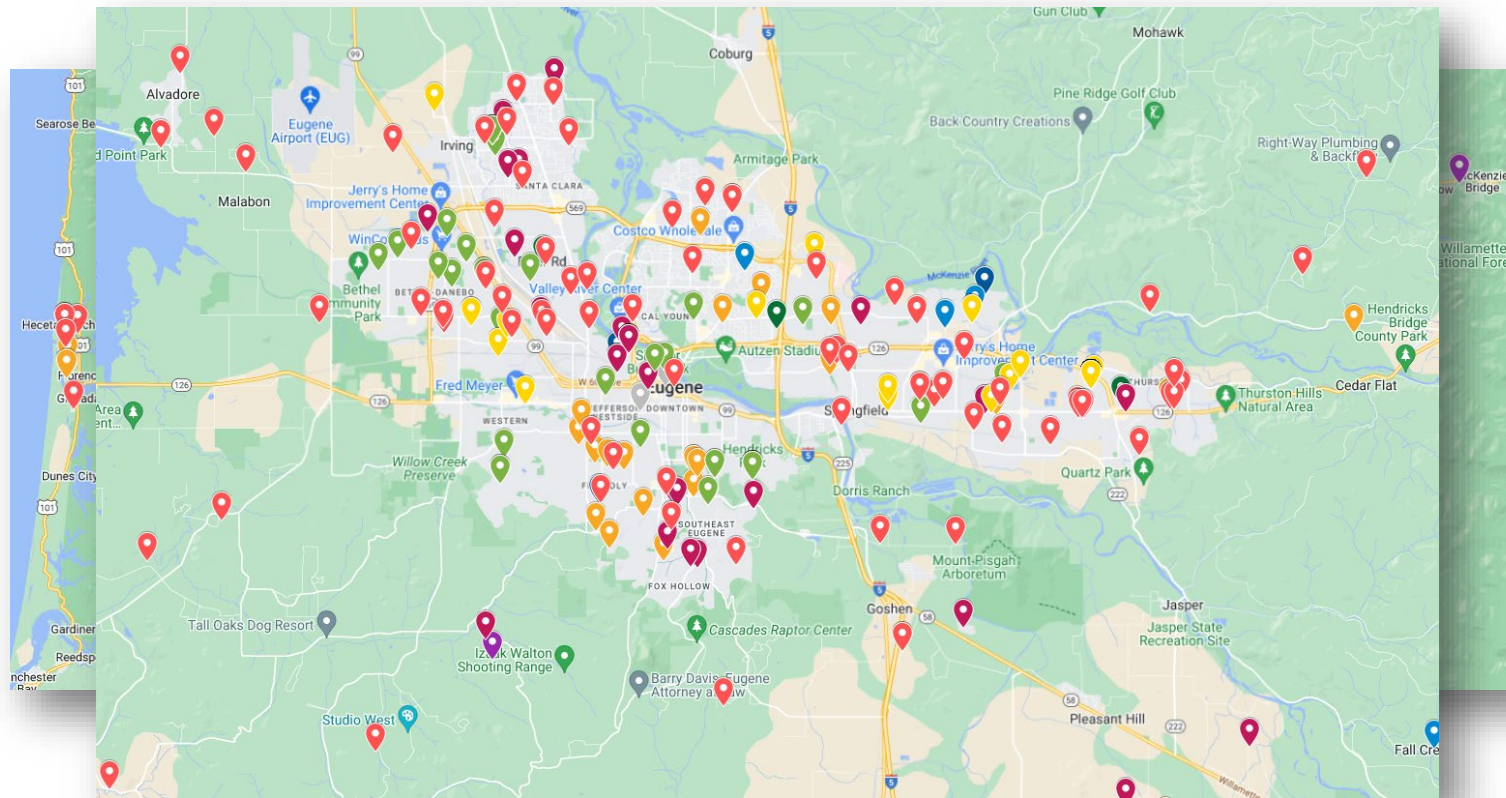
Civil Penalties are forwarded to the Lane County general fund.
ORS § 468.135

FY'24 Penalties: \$21,000 total
- \$13,860 within Eugene (66%)
- \$5,880 within Springfield (28%)
- \$1,260 within Lane County (6%)



Air Quality Complaints in Lane County

LRAPA offers greater response, more detailed investigation, and frequent resolution to air quality complaints submitted in Lane County.



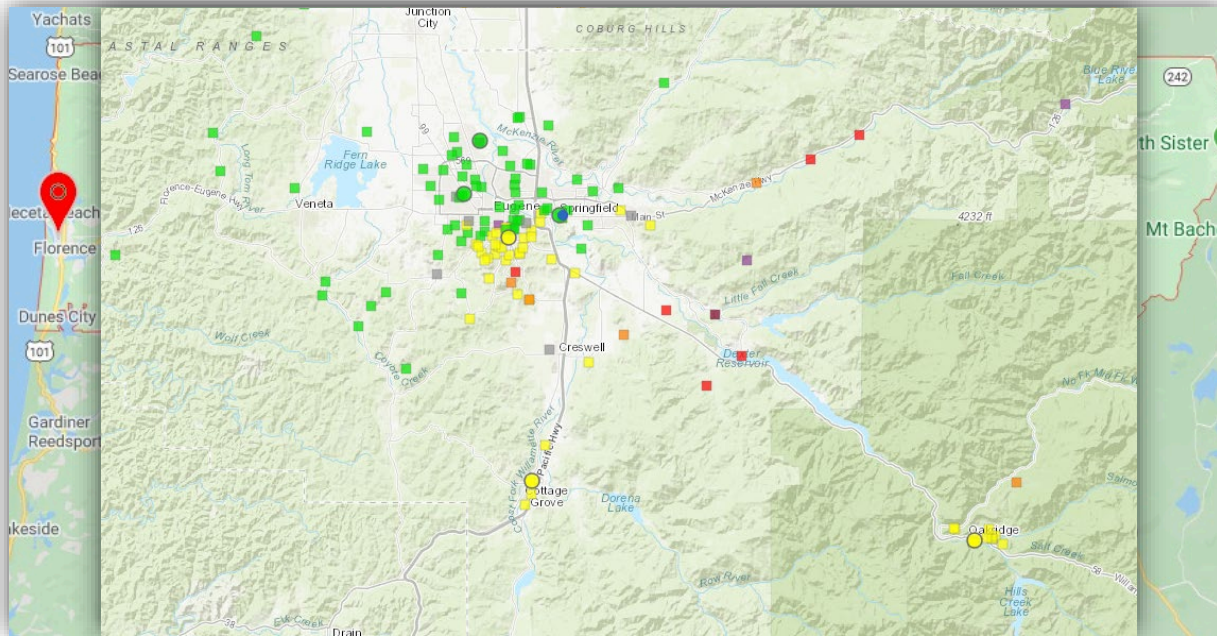
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Type	Number
ASBESTOS	19
FUGITIVE DUST	9
GENERAL	20
HOME WOOD HEATING	45
INDUSTRY	77
OPEN BURNING	248
OTHER	14
RECREATIONAL FIRES	8
SLASH BURN	5
UNKNOWN	14
Total	486

Total complaints since 1979: 28,169

Greater Monitoring of Lane County's Air

LRAPA provides a more robust monitoring network in Lane County than the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would if tasked with regulating the county's air.



LRAPA has also installed +100 Purple Air Sensors across the County.



PM 10 Particulate Matter 10



PM2.5 Particulate Matter 2.5



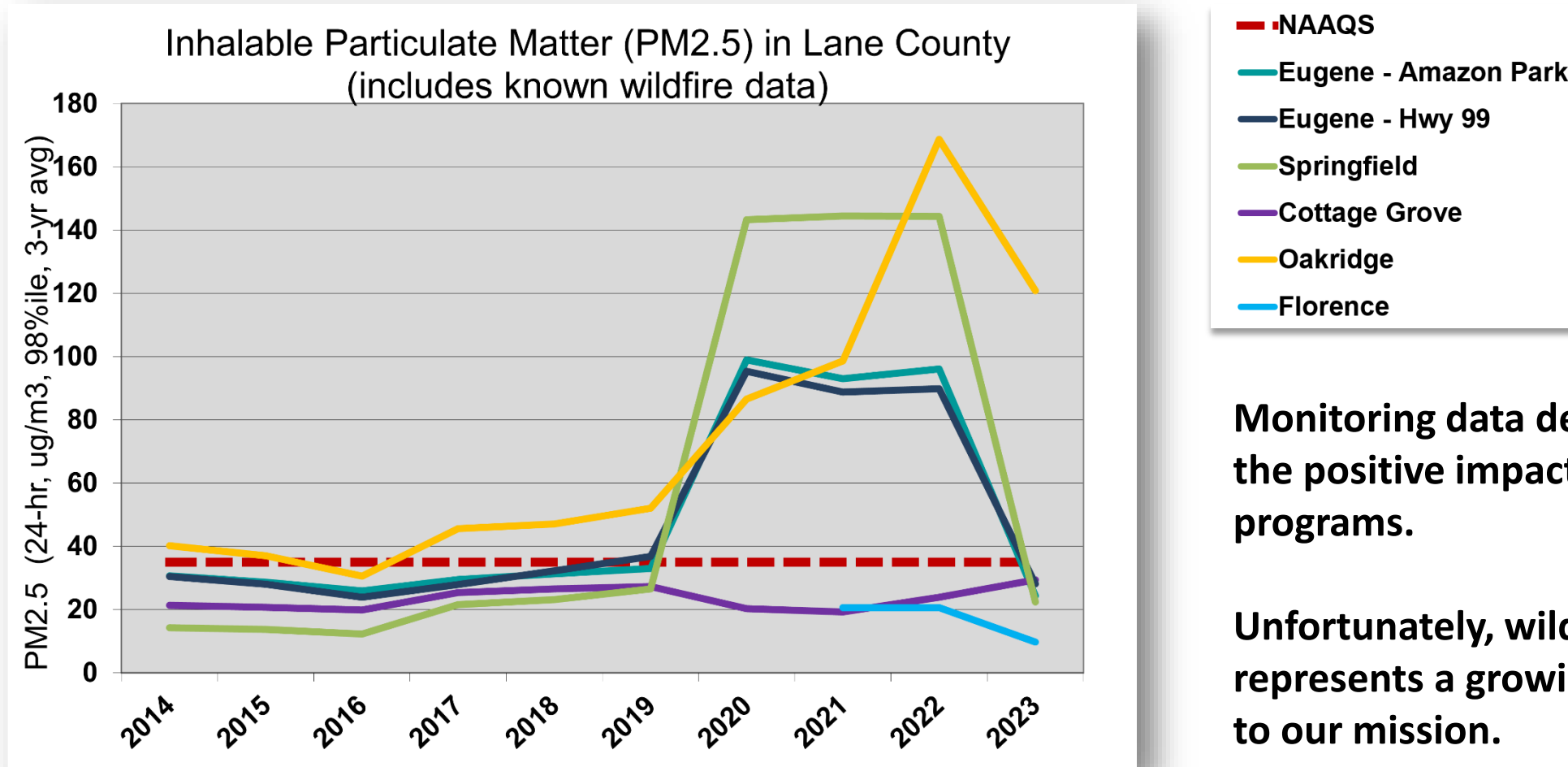
O₃ Surface Ozone



Hazardous Air Pollutants



Air Quality Trends Across Lane County



Monitoring data demonstrates the positive impact of LRAPA's programs.

Unfortunately, wildfire smoke represents a growing challenge to our mission.



Regional Investments in Air Quality

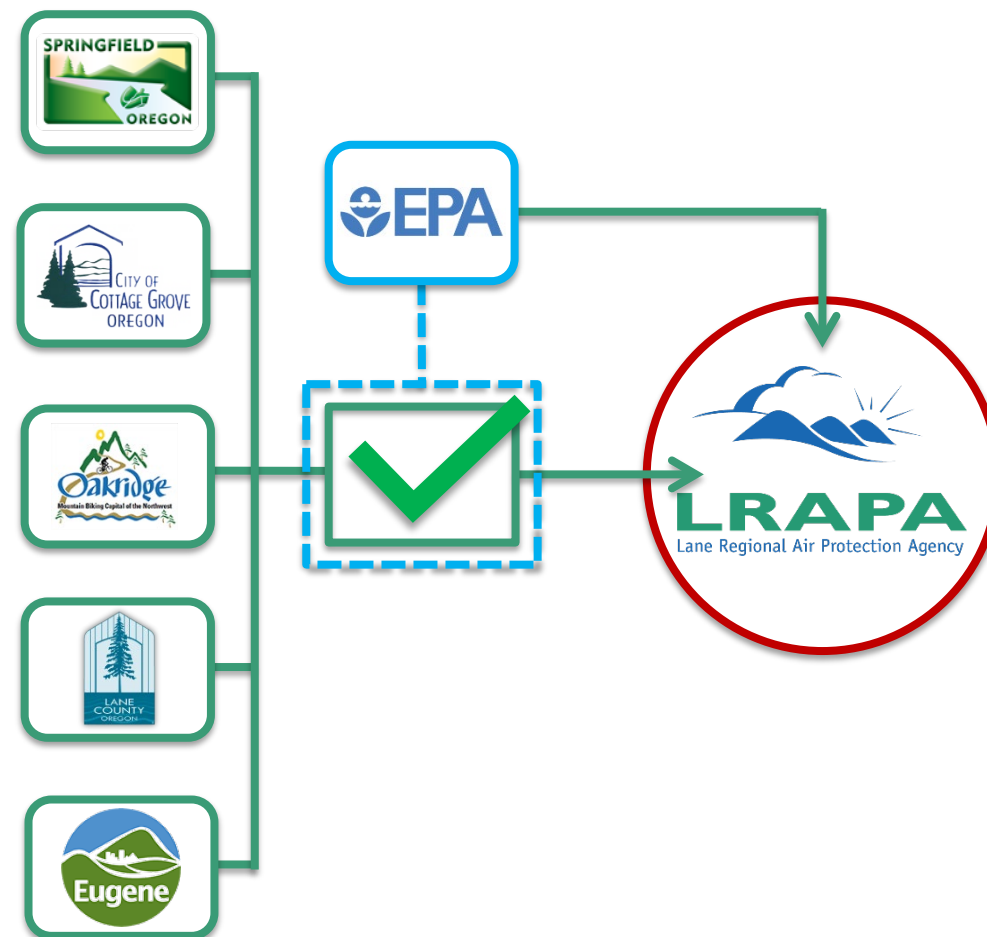


Leveraging Local Support for Federal Funding



\$203,500 is the total support from local partner dues for FY'25. Initially, LRAPA relied solely on local partner support. Today, our funding includes local permits, state support, and grants.

A significant portion of our general fund comes from the EPA. Federal rules require continued local partner support, known as "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE), to access these funds.





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