

Permitting Enhancement Program Update

Board Meeting
March 7, 2025



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
- Updates in February and September 2024
- Today – 1.5-year status update
 - Board requested regular updates to ensure progress
 - Five PEP Elements - 21 Short- and Long-Term Enhancements



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

PEP Progress Report



Increased Production

Calendar Year (CY) 2024 production up 13%



Maintaining Staffing Levels

Current Division vacancy rate 10.8%
Recruitment in progress



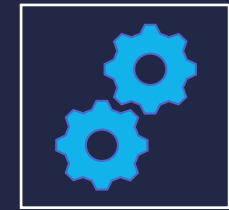
Actions on Aged Applications

Multiple initiatives to address aged applications
674 actions on aged application during PEP



Strategic Public Engagement

Feedback from Task Force on Certified Permit Professional (CPP) program

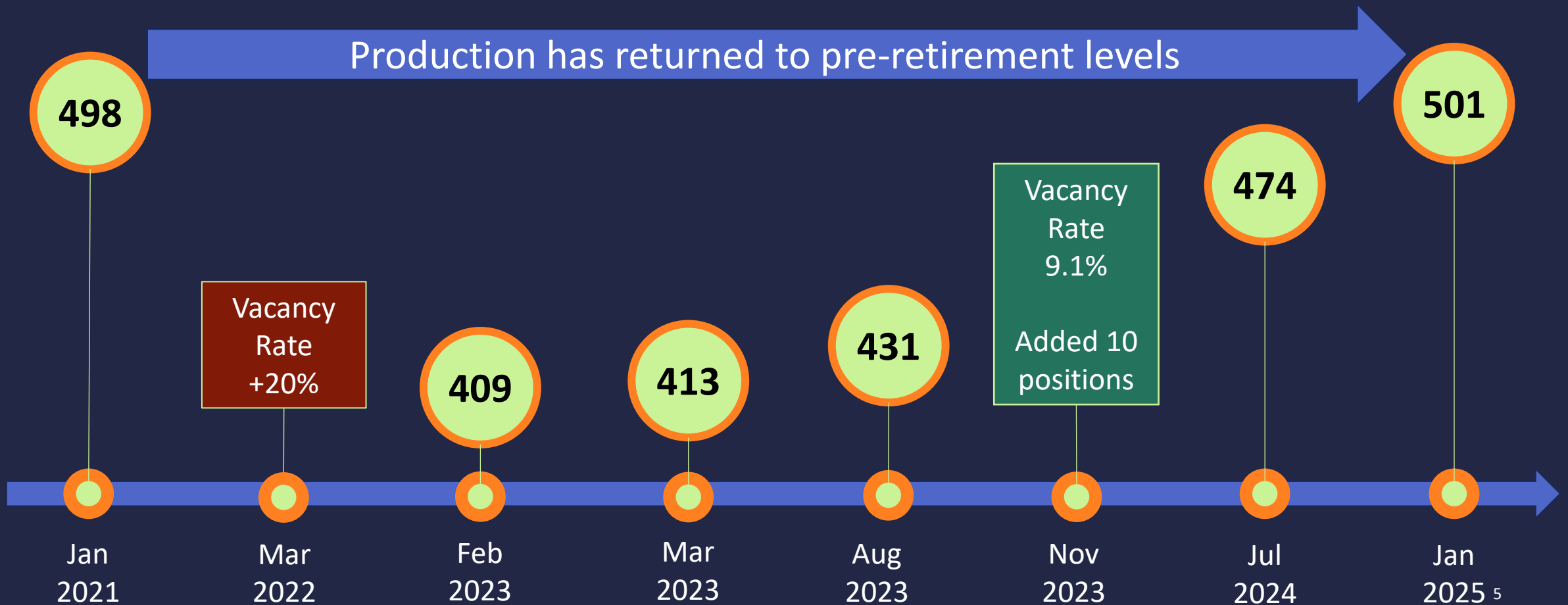


Progress on Modernizations Developed

Initial phase of electronic forms near completion

Production Increasing

Monthly Application Completions - Rolling 12-Month Average



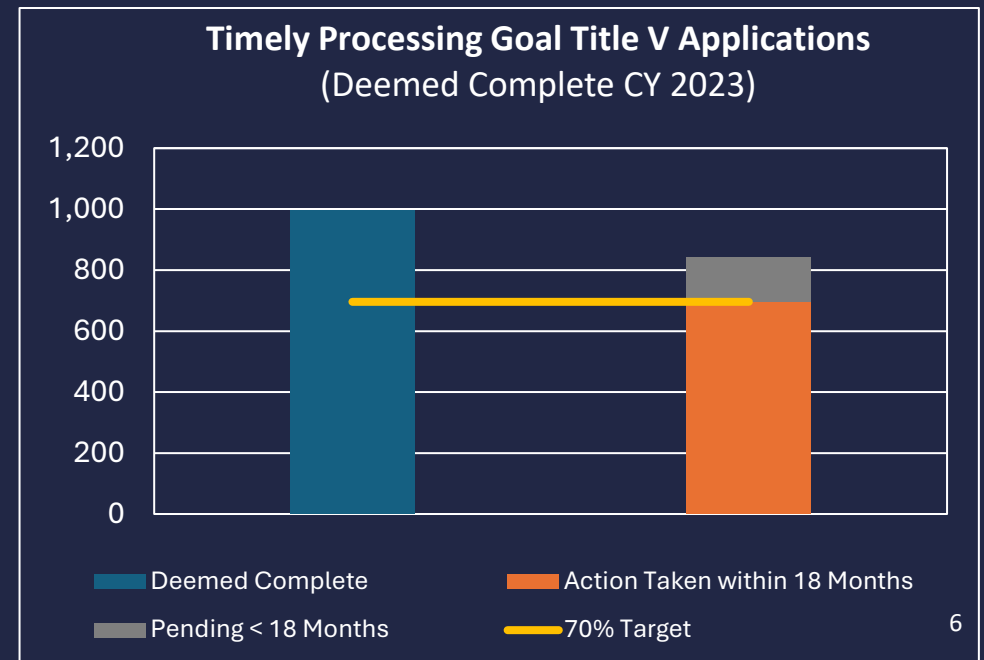
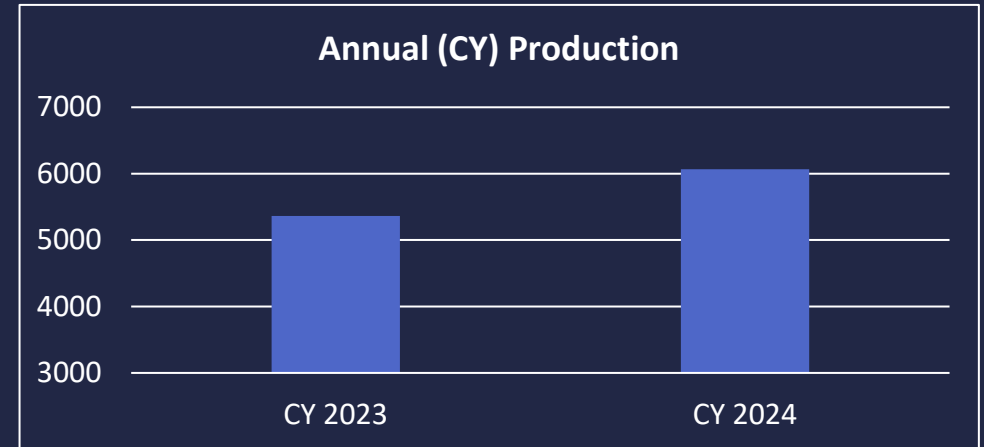
Progress Report on Permit Processing Goals

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Goal

- Increase production by 500 completions, compared to 2023
- On target to meet goal of 5,865 permit completions
- CY 2024 Increase

Met Both Timely Permit Processing Goals

- Met FY 23-24 Goals
- Timely processing of all applications
- Title V applications



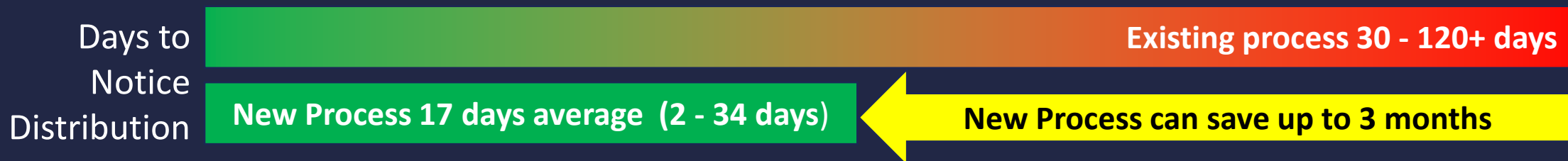
Further Enhancements to Permitting Public Facilities

- Comment made at Stationary Source Committee regarding permitting of a public facility
- Staff identified additional enhancements to improve permitting workflows for permits for public facilities
- Establishing team goals to address issue
 - Detailed analysis of data
 - Staff will continue to report progress to Task Force
 - It should be noted that facilities in non-compliance and Hearing Board cases have unique challenges



Permitting Public Notices Streamlining

- Permitting projects that require public noticing can be resource intensive for permitting engineers
- New pilot program reduced permitting timeline for public noticing
 - Public noticing moved to non-engineering group – more time for engineers
 - Facility option for South Coast AQMD public notice distribution
 - Standardized process eliminates delays
 - Reduced time to Permit Issuance



Certified Permit Professional (CPP) Program*

Background

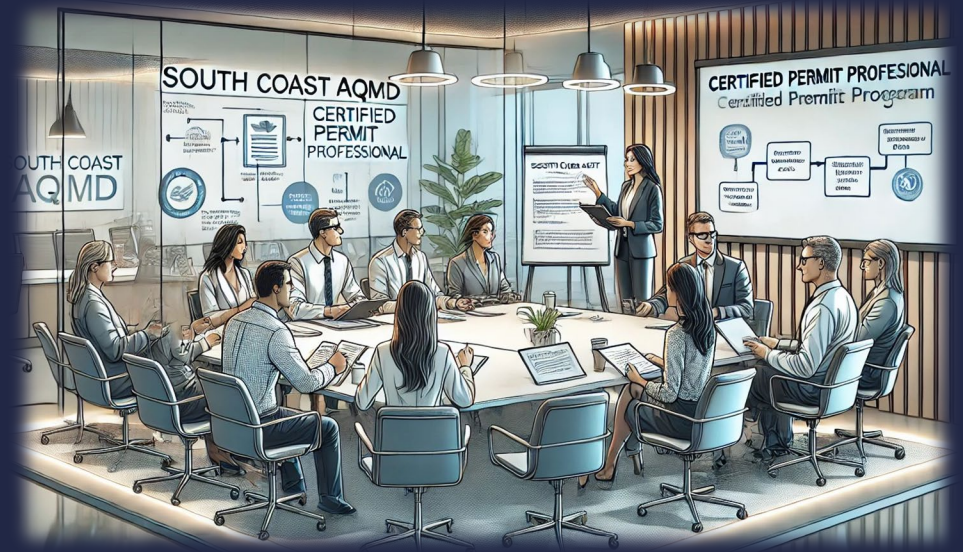
- CPP program intended to provide pool of certified individuals to prepare and submit complete application packages to expedite evaluation process
 - Currently 120+ active CPPs
- Task Force feedback received at multiple meetings
 - CPPs do not receive feedback to improve submittals
 - No incentive for facilities to use CPPs
- Staff recognizes importance of updating and maintaining the program



CPP Program

Next Steps

- Staff acting on Task Force feedback
 - Developing new CPP process and workflows
 - Permitting Working Group meeting
 - Continued program improvements
- Discussions with other air districts
- Small CPP pilot project awaiting implementation
- Staff will present CPP progress at next Board PEP Update



Update on New Permitting System

- Permitting software and paper-based process 20+ years old
 - Incoming applications continue at steady rate
 - New efficiencies needed to improve timelines
 - Challenges – unpredictable application inflow and changing rules
- Workflow and electronic forms
 - Initial forms are nearing completion
 - Awaiting design of new permitting system
- Interim Engineering & Permitting efforts
 - Staff developing smaller scope efficiency projects
- Looking at a variety of software development options



Other PEP-related Efforts

Staffing

- Retirees
 - Usage of retirees ends this month
 - No longer meet SBCERA policy for retiree allowance
- Consultants
 - Contractors continuing to provide support
 - Utilizing for resource intensive efforts
- AQ Engineer Recruitment
 - Hiring 2Q 2025



Other PEP-related Efforts Processes

- Strategic Initiatives and Workplans
 - Title V Workplan - Address program needs and requirements
- Leveraging A.I. for permitting training videos for public
 - Short video demo





Next Steps

- Next PEP Board Update: Q3/Q4 2025
- Report progress of all PEP action items
 - Status update on longer term action items
 - IM efforts
- Increased focus on developing new permitting workflow and efficiencies
 - Develop and implement near-term efforts
- Developing CPP framework
 - Task Force and Working Group meetings