



January 29, 2025

Ms. Angela Latigue  
Grants and Program Integration  
Office EPA Region IX, Air Division  
75 Hawthorne Street (AIR-8)  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Subject: WESTAR 2024 Q4 Report  
Grant # XA-97T12601-0 (Core Grant 2024-2027)

Dear Angela,

Enclosed please find WESTAR's Quarterly Report for the final grant period of **September 1 to December 31, 2024** (the first report for XA-97T12601), for your review. This report includes activity and budget summaries for all the projects WESTAR worked on over the reporting period. Specific activity summaries and budget reports may be accessed directly by following the links on the first page of the report. **Please note our mailing address has changed to 1209 Mountain Road PL NE #5162, Albuquerque NM 87110 so that our grant documents should reflect this address.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Uhl".

Mary Uhl  
Executive Director

Western States Air Resources Council

Enclosures

CC: Scott Jackson  
Sue Chiu  
Krishna Viswanathan  
Rhonda Payne



## **WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT**

Reporting Period: September-December 2024

Report Date: January 31, 2025

EPA Grant No. XA-97T12601-0

Regardless of funding source, all of the projects and activities conducted by WESTAR are consistent with and intended to achieve the purposes of the organization spelled out in Article 2 of WESTAR's Articles of Association, including promoting the exchange of information related to air quality management, developing procedures to meet air quality objectives and to protect environmental resources, to establish workgroups to investigate specific topics, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of the membership. This report summarizes activities and outcomes for this reporting period.

### Reporting Organization:

Name: Western States Air Resources (WESTAR)  
DUNS#: 1460040020000  
Address: 1209 Mountain Road PL NE #5162  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Telephone: (505) 954-1160

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- 2) [Other Significant WESTAR Activities](#)
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## **1. EPA CORE GRANT 2024-2027**

***Note:** Work on activities and spending against this grant began September 1, 2024.*

### a. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR's Core Grant budget, comparing cumulative grant awards from the current grant's inception through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2024-2027  
Expenses by Object Class through 12/31/24**

| <b>Object Class</b>  | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>This<br/>Quarter</b> | <b>Cumulative<br/>Expenses</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Personnel         | 503,172          | 165,047                 | 165,047                        | 33%               |
| 2. Fringe Benefits   | 116,832          | 38,129                  | 38,129                         | 33%               |
| 3. Travel            | 119,982          | 68,921                  | 68,921                         | 57%               |
| 4. Equipment         | 0                | 0                       | 0                              |                   |
| 5. Supplies          | 0                | 0                       | 0                              |                   |
| 6. Contractual       | 124,745          | 0                       | 0                              | 0%                |
| 7. Construction      | 0                | 0                       | 0                              |                   |
| 8. Other             | 233,993          | 59,610                  | 59,610                         | 25%               |
| 9. Indirect Expenses | 246,759          | 79,709                  | 79,709                         | 32%               |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>1,345,483</b> | <b>411,416</b>          | <b>411,416</b>                 | <b>31%</b>        |

a. Activity Summary: Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the policy and technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member-state contributions. In addition, personnel from member states and federal land management agencies contribute their time and expertise to many of the tasks performed under this project.

1) Status of work plan activities – Operations Project

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>  | <i>Results/Outcomes</i>                 |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
|  | <i>2024<br/>September-<br/>December</i> | <i>Project Period<br/>Total</i> |
| <b>30</b> Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR's website      | <b>3</b>                                | <b>3</b>                        |
| <b>6</b> Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR's website | <b>1</b>                                | <b>1</b>                        |
| <b>72</b> Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls  | <b>9</b>                                | <b>9</b>                        |
| <b>3</b> Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities                | <b>2</b>                                | <b>2</b>                        |

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>  | <i>Results/Outcomes</i>                 |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
|  | <i>2024<br/>September-<br/>December</i> | <i>Project Period<br/>Total</i> |
| <b>1</b> Specialty conference on a high priority topic   | <b>0</b>                                | <b>0</b>                        |
| <b>2</b> Meetings held to address emerging topics  | <b>1</b>                                | <b>1</b>                        |
| <b>9</b> Trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership | <b>0</b>                                | <b>0</b>                        |

## 2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

\* WESTAR staff, states, and Tribal air agencies continue to meet monthly as an ad hoc committee to exchange information about implementing EPA’s oil and gas rules for methane. The discussion centers around implementing section OOOOc and efforts to implement meaningful engagement requirements.

\* WESTAR is participating with NESCAUM in the independent wood heater testing project. WESTAR continues to participate in the National Residential Heating Task Force, including in work groups formed to refine wood burning emission estimates and source classification codes, and giving input on how to revise the wood heating NSPS. WESTAR is also working with EPA to plan a residential heating workshop to be held March 11-13, 2025, in Denver, Colorado.

### b. Activity Summary: Training Project

The purpose of the Training Project is to: (1) deliver high-quality training courses/workshops that meet the needs and expectations of state and local air agency staff within the fifteen-state WESTAR region; (2) develop needed, cost-effective, responsive, and western-states-focused training opportunities; and (3) act as the main point of contact for information and educational training opportunities related to air quality training.

#### 1) Status of work plan activities – Training Project

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i> | <i>Results/Outcomes</i>                 |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
|   | <i>2024<br/>September-<br/>December</i> | <i>Project Period<br/>Total</i> |
| 75 Educational opportunities delivered:   | 10                                      | 10                              |

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i> | <i>Results/Outcomes</i>                 |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
|   | <i>2024<br/>September-<br/>December</i> | <i>Project Period<br/>Total</i> |
| * Air Dispersion Modeling – NM            |   |                                 |
| * Intermediate Permitting – NV            |   |                                 |
| * Fugitive Dust – AK                      |   |                                 |
| * Incinerators – AK                       |   |                                 |
| * Landfill Control Devices – AK           |   |                                 |
| * Continuous Emission Monitoring – AK     |   |                                 |
| * Air Dispersion Modeling – NM            |   |                                 |
| * Advanced Inspector – HI                 |   |                                 |
| * Continuous Monitoring Systems – CA      |   |                                 |
| * SIP Development - WA                    |   |                                 |
| 1650 Students <i>trained</i>              | 291                                     | 291                             |
| 4025 Student training days                | 632.5                                   | 632.5                           |
| 1 Training course developed/updated       | 1                                       | 1                               |

#### Other Activities this Quarter – Training Project

- WESTAR worked with state, local, and Tribal air quality government agencies in the fifteen Western United States on the logistics of the training priorities that agencies identified as important training need(s) for FY2025.
- WESTAR continues its leadership role on the National Joint Training Committee (JTC) Steering Committee. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifying priorities, assigning projects, providing assessments, and fostering communication.
- WESTAR staff continues to work with the JTC to move classroom training courses to online training, when appropriate, to serve better the current needs of state, local, and tribal air quality professionals.

#### c. Activity Summary: Regional Technical Support Project

The purpose of the Regional Technical Support project is to provide technical support to member agencies related to the analysis of monitoring data, analysis, and preparation of emissions inventories, regional modeling analyses, and operation and maintenance of web databases – all for member agencies to use in their air quality management and planning activities.

1) Status of work plan activities – Regional Technical Support Project

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>                                       | <i>Results/Outcomes</i>                      |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
|   | <i>2024<br/>September<br/>-<br/>December</i> | <i>Project Period<br/>Total</i> |
| <b>75</b> Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls                          | <b>3</b>                                     | <b>3</b>                        |
| <b>30</b> Technical Steering Committee conference calls                         | <b>1</b>                                     | <b>1</b>                        |
| <b>2</b> Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings                                       | <b>0</b>                                     | <b>0</b>                        |
| <b>30</b> Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members | <b>1</b>                                     | <b>1</b>                        |
| <b>1</b> Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings                     | <b>0</b>                                     | <b>0</b>                        |
| <b>30</b> WRAP Board calls  | <b>2</b>                                     | <b>2</b>                        |

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Regional Technical Support Project

- The WRAP Regional Technical Center provides access to all types of air quality data, made possible through the storage and dissemination capabilities built into the Air Data Management System (ADMS). Linked to the ADMS are the Technical Support System v2 and v3, which support Regional Haze analysis for the WESTAR/WRAP region. The ADMS also houses the Federal Land Manager’s Environmental Database (FED). Development to support the Intermountain West Data Warehouse (IWDW), a web application for accessing various modeling platforms, has stopped, and efforts to redesign an application for accessing modeling platform data are underway. The WESTAR/SCAQMD EE Demo App will also be moved from the R Shiny environment to the ADMS in 2025. The WESTAR/WRAP website was migrated to ADMS servers in the fall of 2024. Moving forward, the WRAP Regional Technical Center framework can support additional regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts.
- Staff continued to work with state and federal agencies, including regional EPA offices, to discuss and collect input on regional technical analysis needs in the western U.S.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups met in September, then skipped October & November due to the WESTAR/WRAP Fall Business meeting. December’s meeting was canceled as it coincided with the holiday season.
- The Fire and Smoke Work Group met on September 9th. The Fire and Smoke Work Group’s Exceptional Event Support Team did not meet this quarter. The EE Demo

App volunteer group met biweekly for 15 minutes to discuss any issues/questions, with follow-up meetings always an option if needed.

- The Tribal Data WG met once in October
- The Oil and Gas WG did not meet this quarter
- The Regional Haze Planning WG did not meet this quarter
- The Regional Technical Operations WG met in October.

The Technical Steering Committee and Work Groups have paused implementation of the WRAP Board-approved “Future project prioritization topics” from the Board’s December 2, 2020, meeting. For background, in September 2021, the Technical Steering Committee updated the Board-approved topics with a status report to track progress on those topics going forward and reported progress at the WRAP Board and TSC meeting on December 9, 2021. The TSC provided another update to the WRAP Board in December 2022 and January 2023. The work topic list was revised the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 with the help of a few Technical Steering Committee members. The Technical Steering Committee reviewed the new format. The new format makes tracking, updating, and revising work topics in the WRAP easier. The revised format and updated topic tracking was presented to the WRAP Board in Q1 2024. However, no project funding has been awarded to the WRAP to help support the implementation of certain WG tasks.

In February 2022, the WRAP Board approved proposed amendments to the WRAP charter. The proposed amended Charter was sent to the membership for approval on January 20, 2023. On September 11, 2023, the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership was achieved, and the proposed amendments were accepted. The new charter is now in effect and posted to the WESTAR website as part of the WRAP organizational documents.

## 2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

WESTAR co-chairs the Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group and organizes monthly and quarterly conference calls to share information about EPA and MJO technical work.

WESTAR coordinates a quarterly national call on Regional Haze planning.

WESTAR participates in a number of HAQAST projects.

WESTAR is working with its members to develop an application for exceptional events demonstrations.

A small group of WESTAR/WRAP members (MT, OR, USFWS) and WESTAR staff are developing a Desktop CAMx modeling approach that all WESTAR/WRAP members can use for multiple modeling projects.

WESTAR continues to assist in a lead role with the inventory collaborative group to develop the 2022 Emissions Modeling Platform.

WESTAR organized an Air Data Management System (ADMS) Steering Committee for agencies that are funding and/or supporting the ongoing development of the ADMS. This group meets quarterly. This first meeting was in May 2024. WESTAR/WRAP facilitated an ADMS workshop for members of the Steering Committee to learn more about the structure, data flows, websites, and products that make up the ADMS.

### 3. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

#### **Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 12/31/2024 All Active Accounts**

|                            | EPA                |                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Object Class               | Core Grant 2024-27 | Totals           |
| 1. Personnel               | 165,047            | 165,047          |
| 2. Fringe                  | 38,129             | 38,129           |
| 3. Travel                  | 68,921             | 68,921           |
| 4. Equipment               | 0                  | 0                |
| 5. Supplies                | 0                  | 0                |
| 6. Contractual             | 0                  | 0                |
| 7. Construction            | 0                  | 0                |
| 8. Other                   | 59,610             | 59,610           |
| 9. Indirect                | 79,709             | 79,709           |
| <b>Cumulative Expenses</b> | <b>411,416</b>     | <b>411,416</b>   |
| <b>Budget</b>              | <b>1,345,483</b>   | <b>1,345,483</b> |
| <b>Balance Avail</b>       | <b>934,067</b>     | <b>934,067</b>   |

#### **Current Quarter Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source – All Active Accounts**

|                    | EPA                |         |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Object Class       | Core Grant 2024-27 | Totals  |
| 1. Personnel       | 165,047            | 165,047 |
| 2. Fringe Benefits | 38,129             | 38,129  |
| 3. Travel          | 68,921             | 68,921  |
| 4. Equipment       | 0                  | 0       |
| 5. Supplies        | 0                  | 0       |



|                       | EPA                |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Object Class          | Core Grant 2024-27 | Totals         |
| 6. Contractual        | 0                  | 0              |
| 7. Construction       | 0                  | 0              |
| 8. Other              | 59,610             | 59,610         |
| 9. Indirect           | 79,709             | 79,709         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>411,416</b>     | <b>411,416</b> |