

# California Air Resources Board

## Notice of Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed South Coast PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider adoption of the Proposed South Coast PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. If adopted, CARB will submit the South Coast PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Date: December 9, 2021

Time: 9:00 A.M.

This public meeting may continue at 8:30 a.m., on December 10, 2021. Please consult the public agenda, which will be posted ten days before the December 9, 2021, Board Meeting, for important details, including, but not limited to, the day on which this item will be considered and any appropriate direction regarding a possible remote-only Board Meeting. If the meeting is to be held in person – in addition to remote access – it will be held at the California Air Resources Board, Byron Sher Auditorium, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

### Background

On July 18, 1997, U.S. EPA established a health-based 24-hour national ambient air quality standard for fine particulate matter (24-hour PM2.5 standard). The 24-hour PM2.5 standard was set at 65 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), based on a 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour ambient concentrations. On October 17, 2006, the U.S. EPA lowered the 24-hour PM2.5 standard to a more health protective level of 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The South Coast Air Basin (South Coast) is currently designated nonattainment for both 24-hour PM2.5 standards, with a serious classification for the 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hour PM2.5 standard and a moderate classification for the 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hour PM2.5 standard. Under the federal Clean Air Act (Act), states must submit SIP revisions to provide for attainment in nonattainment areas, and can request redesignation to attainment once monitored data shows that air quality in the area has reached a level that meets the relevant standard.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (District) has developed and submitted multiple SIP revisions to provide for attainment of the 24-hour PM2.5 standards in the South Coast. In 2020, monitored data demonstrated that the South Coast attained both 24-hour PM2.5 standards. The District has developed the 2021 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 1997 and 2006 24-hour PM2.5

Standards for the South Coast Air Basin (2021 Redesignation Request) demonstrating that the South Coast has met the requirements to be redesignated to attainment for the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. Specifically, the 2021 Redesignation Request demonstrates that: (1) the South Coast has attained the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards in the 2018-2020 time period; (2) the improvement in PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions resulting from implementation of an approved SIP; (3) the District has included a maintenance plan for the South Coast meeting the requirements of section 175A of the Act; and (4) California has met all requirements applicable to South Coast under section 110 and part D of the Act.

On November 5, 2021, the District will consider approval of the 2021 Redesignation Request. CARB staff has reviewed the 2021 Redesignation Request that the District will consider on November 5, 2021, and has concluded that it meets the requirements of the Act for redesignation of the South Coast to attainment for both the 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

## Proposed Action

Assuming that the District adopts the 2021 Redesignation Request as provided to CARB for consideration, CARB staff recommends the Board approve the 2021 Redesignation Request and direct staff to submit the request to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.

CARB staff will present a written report at the meeting. Copies of the report may be obtained from CARB's website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-state-implementation-plans/nonattainment-area-plans/south-coast-air>, October 29, 2021. Please contact Chris Hopkins, Regulations Coordinator, at [chris.hopkins@arb.ca.gov](mailto:chris.hopkins@arb.ca.gov) or (916) 445-9564 if you need physical copies of the documents.

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the meeting and may provide comments by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments not submitted during the meeting, must be received **no later than November 29, 2021**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerks' Office, California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

**Electronic submittal:** <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Scott King, Air Pollution Specialist, South Coast Air Quality Planning Section at [scott.king@arb.ca.gov](mailto:scott.king@arb.ca.gov) or Ariel Fideldy, Manager, South Coast Air Quality Planning Section at [Ariel.Fideldy@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Ariel.Fideldy@arb.ca.gov).

## Environmental Analysis

CARB has determined that the proposed Plan is a ministerial activity by CARB for purposes of CEQA (14 CCR § 15268). A “ministerial” decision is one that involves fixed standards or objective measurements, and the agency has no discretion to shape the activity in response to environmental concerns (14 CCR § 15369; San Diego Navy Broadway Complex Coalition v. City of San Diego (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 924, 934). Because CARB lacks authority to modify a SIP submittal that fully complies with all federal Clean Air Act requirements, its action here is ministerial.

## Special Accommodation Request

Consistent with California Government Code Section 7296.2, special accommodation or language needs may be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the meeting;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language; and
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerks’ Office at [cotb@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cotb@arb.ca.gov) or (916) 322-5594 as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled Board meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Consecuente con la sección 7296.2 del Código de Gobierno de California, una acomodación especial o necesidades lingüísticas pueden ser suministradas para cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia;
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo u otro idioma; y
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al [cotb@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cotb@arb.ca.gov) o (916) 322-5594 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de diez días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

California Air Resources Board



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Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

Date: October 29, 2021

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see [CARB’s website](http://www.arb.ca.gov) (www.arb.ca.gov).*