

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 24-3-1: Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board):

- Adopt the State commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions of 9.1 tons per day of oxides of nitrogen, 0.2 tons per day of ammonia, and 0.5 tons per day of direct fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in the South Coast Air Basin by 2030, and the motor vehicle emissions budgets included in the CARB Staff Report;
- Adopt the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard (2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan); and
- Direct staff to submit the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan along with the above elements of the CARB Staff Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.

Discussion:

The South Coast Air Basin is designated as nonattainment for the 12 microgram per meter cubed ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) annual PM2.5 standard. In 2017, CARB and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District) developed and submitted to U.S. EPA the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan which addressed moderate and serious nonattainment area Clean Air Act requirements for the 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual PM2.5 standard, and demonstrated attainment in the South Coast Air Basin by the serious area deadline, December 31, 2025. In 2020, the U.S. EPA approved the moderate area State Implementation Plan elements and established due dates for the serious area requirements, including a December 31, 2023, due date for the attainment demonstration. Due to the delay in approving the serious area elements, multiple State Implementation Plan elements were out of date including a new near-road way monitor which started recording the highest PM2.5 values in the South Coast. Attainment by December 31, 2025 is now less certain with this new monitor. Since the serious elements were submitted early, CARB and the District withdrew from inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan the serious area elements that were submitted as a part of the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan.

To meet serious nonattainment area requirements and demonstrate attainment using the latest air quality data, the District developed the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan. This plan incorporates emission reductions from measure commitments in the 2022 State SIP Strategy, and reductions from District measures, to demonstrate attainment of the 12 µg/m³ annual PM2.5 standard by December 31, 2030. Alongside the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan, the CARB Staff Report contains the State's proposed commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions of 9.1 tons per day of oxides of nitrogen, 0.2 tons per day of ammonia, and 0.5 tons per day of direct PM2.5 in the South Coast in 2030. In addition to demonstrating attainment in 2030, this plan together with the CARB Staff Report address all other requirements of the Clean Air Act for a serious nonattainment area for the 12 µg/m³ PM2.5 standard.

Summary and Impacts:

Together with the CARB Staff Report, the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan addresses the requirements of the Clean Air Act for the South Coast as a serious nonattainment area requesting an extension of the attainment date for the 12 µg/m³ PM2.5 standard including: emission inventories, demonstration of attainment of the 12 µg/m³ annual PM2.5 standard by December 31, 2030, a reasonable further progress demonstration and associated motor vehicle emissions budgets, quantitative milestones, contingency measures, a Best Available Control Measure/Best Available Control Technology demonstration, and a Most Stringent Measure demonstration.

As detailed in the CARB Staff Report, CARB staff has reviewed the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan and has concluded that, together the CARB Staff Report, it meets the serious area requirements of the Clean Air Act for the 12 µg/m³ annual PM2.5 standard. If adopted, the 2024 South Coast PM2.5 Plan and relevant portions of the CARB Staff Report will be submitted to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.