

# California Air Resources Board

## Notice of Public Meeting to Consider Coso Junction PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan State Implementation Plan Submittal

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider approval of the Coso Junction Planning Area PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan (Second PM<sub>10</sub> Plan).

Date: September 23, 2021

Time: 9:00 A.M.

This public meeting may continue at 8:30 a.m., on September 24, 2021. Please consult the public agenda, which will be posted ten days before the September 23, 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

To protect against the adverse health impacts of exposure to particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) first set PM<sub>10</sub> ambient air quality standards (standard) in July 1987, adopting an annual standard of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and a 24-hour standard of 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In September 2006, U.S. EPA rescinded the annual PM<sub>10</sub> standard and retained the 24-hour standard of 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The Searles Valley Planning Area (Searles Valley) was designated nonattainment for the PM<sub>10</sub> standard in 1987, shortly after it was adopted. The boundaries of Searles Valley included portions of three air districts: the Trona Planning Area in San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control District (now the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District), the Coso Junction Planning Area in the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District), and the Indian Wells Valley Planning Area (Indian Wells Valley) in the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (now the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District). Section 110(a)(1) of the federal Clean Air Act (Act) required a PM<sub>10</sub> attainment plan to be submitted to U.S. EPA by 1988, a deadline that was extended by U.S. EPA to November 1991. On November 25, 1991, the three air districts jointly adopted a PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment plan for the Searles Valley.

In 2001, CARB requested that the U.S. EPA split the Searles Valley into three separate PM<sub>10</sub> planning areas, with boundaries coterminous with those of the three air districts. U.S. EPA approved this request on August 6, 2002.

Based on PM<sub>10</sub> air quality monitoring data, the District demonstrated that the Coso Junction Planning Area did not exceed the federal PM<sub>10</sub> standard during the three-year period from 2007 through 2009. On the basis of this demonstration, the District adopted a 10-year PM<sub>10</sub> maintenance plan (2010 PM<sub>10</sub> Plan) and requested redesignation to attainment on May 17, 2010. CARB approved the 2010 PM<sub>10</sub> Plan on June 24, 2010. U.S. EPA approved the 2010 PM<sub>10</sub> Plan and redesignated the Coso Junction Planning Area to attainment on September 3, 2010.

Section 175A(b) of the Act requires CARB to submit a second 10-year PM<sub>10</sub> maintenance plan for a second 10-year planning period. For the Coso Junction Planning Area, the period covered by the second maintenance plan is October 4, 2010, through October 3, 2020. The Coso Junction PM<sub>10</sub> Planning Area Second 10-year PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan (Second PM<sub>10</sub> Plan) was adopted by the District on July 1, 2021. On September 23, 2021, the Board will consider adopting the Second PM<sub>10</sub> Plan, including requesting U.S. EPA approve the Plan as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

CARB staff reviewed the Second PM<sub>10</sub> Plan and concluded that it meets applicable requirements of the Act.

## **Proposed Action**

CARB staff recommends that the Board adopt the Coso Junction PM<sub>10</sub> Planning Area Second 10-Year PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan and direct staff to submit the Plan documents to U.S. EPA as a revision to the 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/resources/documents/2021-coso-junction-pm10-planning-area-second-10-year-maintenance-plan> after August 13, 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 Monday, September 13, 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 Ms. Alicia Adams, Manager of the Central Valley Air Quality Planning Section, Air Quality Planning and Science Division at [alicia.adams@arb.ca.gov](mailto:alicia.adams@arb.ca.gov) or Earl Withycombe, Air Resources Engineer, Air Quality Planning and Science Division at [earl.withycombe@arb.ca.gov](mailto:earl.withycombe@arb.ca.gov).

## **Environmental Analysis**

CARB has determined that its subsequent approval of the District's Second PM<sub>10</sub> Plan is a "ministerial" approval for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15268) because CARB's review is limited to determining if the Plan meets the requirements of the Act, and CARB lacks authority to modify or not approve the Plan in response to environmental concerns, as described in the CARB Staff Report.

## **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: August 13, 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).*