

Proposed Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards Public Workshop Presentation Text

Release Date: October 22, 2021



Table of Contents

Proposed Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards Public Workshop Presentation Text.....	0
Slide 1 Title Slide.....	2
Slide 2 Logistics.....	2
Slide 3 Presentation Outline.....	2
Slide 4 Designation Process.....	2
Slide 5 Data to Use.....	2
Slide 6 Exceedance vs. Violation.....	3
Slide 7 Designation Categories.....	3
Slide 8 Designation Categories Nonattainment-Transitional.....	3
Slide 9 Proposed 2021 State Area Designation Changes.....	4
Slide 10 NO ₂ Standard.....	4
Slide 11 Proposed NO ₂ Change.....	4
Slide 12 PM ₁₀ Standard.....	4
Slide 13 Proposed PM ₁₀ Change.....	4
Slide 14 PM _{2.5} Standard.....	4
Slide 15 Proposed PM _{2.5} Change.....	4
Slide 16 What's Next?.....	5
Slide 17 Further Information.....	5
Slide 18 Conclusion Slide.....	5

Slide 1 Title Slide

Good afternoon and welcome to the California Air Resources Board's (or CARB) webinar workshop on the proposed amendments to the area designations for state ambient air quality standards. My name is Jenette Kwong, and I will be giving the presentation today.

Slide 2 Logistics

Before we get started, there are a few logistical matters to address. The audio portion of this presentation is available over the GoToMeeting website connection.

If audio fails during the presentation, please log off and try to reconnect. This should solve most problems. You can also email Theresa Najita at theresa.najita@arb.ca.gov.

Because we are using integrated audio, we will be muting everyone.

If you cannot see this presentation, or if you lose connection with the webinar, this presentation (slides and text) will be placed on the [state area designations webpage – current activities](#) after this workshop is completed.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to send them at any time through the webinar chat or questions box found on the right side of the screen. We will go through them and respond at the end of the presentation so everyone can hear the answers.

If you have any questions or comments after the conclusion of this webinar, please feel free to contact us at the email addresses provided at the end of this presentation or through the [state area designations webpage – current activities](#). Thank you.

Slide 3 Presentation Outline

The presentation today will include the basic area designation process, the criteria we use, and our proposed changes to the area designations for state standards. More detailed information regarding the process and the criteria can be found on our [website](#) and is always included in the most recent staff report.

Slide 4 CARB Designation Process

CARB sets state ambient air quality standards at levels designed to protect public health.

In addition to adopting these state standards, CARB also adopts designation criteria, last updated in 2010. These criteria provide the basis for designating areas for the state standards. These designations are reviewed annually and indicate whether the state health-based standards are being met.

Slide 5 Data to Use

The data used for making area designations come from a statewide network of air monitors. We generally refer to these data as "data for record." Data for record must meet established

quality assurance procedures. Generally, these data are collected by CARB or the local districts. We can, however, use data from other sources if the requirements are met. The data must also represent the averaging time of the state standard and reflect both the location and time of the expected highest concentrations.

The period reviewed is the most recent three calendar years. This year's review is based on data from 2018 through 2020.

Slide 6 Exceedance vs. Violation

When making designations it is important to make a distinction between an exceedance and a violation of the air quality standard. An exceedance is any concentration higher than the level of the state standard. In contrast, a violation is an exceedance that has not been excluded as having been affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event. Not all exceedances are violations. For example, exceptional events, such as wildfire smoke impacts, or dust transported by high winds, might be exceedances that do not count as violations. The distinction between exceedances and violations is important when we talk about the designation categories.

Slide 7 Designation Categories

There are specific requirements for the designation categories. To be designated nonattainment, data for an area must show one or more violations of the state standard during the last three years. Data for making this designation must be representative of the averaging time, but it is not necessary for the data to be complete. To be designated as attainment, an area must have data showing no violations of the state standard during the past three years. Data for making this designation must be both representative and complete.

As I mentioned earlier, some high values may be excluded from the designation process and not be considered violations. However, we can exclude values only if they qualify under the definitions contained in the criteria. Because some high values may be excluded, an attainment area may still show occasional values above the standard.

Finally, we designate areas as unclassified if they do not have sufficient data and they are not likely to violate the state standards.

Slide 8 Designation Categories Nonattainment-Transitional

The nonattainment-transitional designation is a subset of the nonattainment category. The designation is given to areas that still have a few exceedances but are making progress and getting close to attaining the state standard.

For ozone, there must have been three or fewer exceedances during the last complete calendar year. In this sub-category, we look at all the measurements and do not exclude any of them. This includes recognized exceptional events.

Slide 9 Proposed 2021 State Area Designation Changes

The proposed 2021 changes to the area designations, as I mentioned earlier, are based on the most recent air quality data – data collected from 2018 through 2020. Area designation changes are proposed for only three of the ten criteria pollutants. There is one proposed change for NO₂, one for PM₁₀, and one for PM_{2.5}.

Slide 10 NO₂ Standard

The NO₂ designations are based on two standards— one for 1-hour NO₂ and one for annual average NO₂. Both these standards must be met for an area to be designated attainment. This year, there is one change.

Slide 11 Proposed NO₂ Change

The CA 60 portion of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles counties in the South Coast Air Basin are currently designated nonattainment. Staff propose classifying this area as attainment due to no violations occurring during the past three years. This would bring the entire south coast air basin into attainment for the NO₂ standard.

Slide 12 PM₁₀ Standard

Like NO₂, PM₁₀ designations are based on two standards – a 24-hour average concentration and an annual average. Again, both standards must be met for an area to be designated as attainment. There is one proposed PM₁₀ change.

Slide 13 Proposed PM₁₀ Change

Mendocino County in the North Coast Air Basin is currently designated nonattainment. Staff propose classifying this area as attainment due to no violations occurring during the past three years.

Slide 14 PM_{2.5} Standard

In contrast to PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} designations are based on one standard – an annual average. There is one proposed PM_{2.5} change.

Slide 15 Proposed PM_{2.5} Change

Santa Barbara County in the South Central Coast Air Basin is currently designated unclassified. Staff propose classifying this area as attainment due to no violations occurring during the past three years.

Slide 16 What's Next?

So, what are our next steps?

The initial staff report, also known as the initial statement of reasons or ISOR, will be released on December 28 and the 45-day comment period will begin December 31, 2021.

The California Air Resources Board is currently scheduled to consider the adoption of these proposed changes at a public hearing on February 24 and 25, 2022.

Slide 17 Further Information

Additional information can be obtained from the [state area designations webpage – current activities](#). You can receive email updates by [subscribing](#) to our webpage.

You can also contact either myself, Jenette Kwong, or Theresa Najita, if you have further questions or concerns.

Slide 18 Conclusion Slide

This concludes the presentation, and we can now answer any questions you might have. Please type your questions in the webinar chat or questions box or raise your hand and we can call on you. We plan to summarize any verbal questions in the chat.