

# Proposed 2023 Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards

- Proposed 2023 Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards ..... 1
- Slide 1 Title Slide ..... 2
- Slide 2 Logistics ..... 2
- Slide 3 Presentation Outline ..... 2
- Slide 4 CARB Designation Process ..... 2
- Slide 5 Data to Use ..... 3
- Slide 6 Exceedance vs. Violation ..... 3
- Slide 7 Designation Categories..... 3
- Slide 8 Designation Categories Nonattainment-Transitional ..... 4
- Slide 9 Proposed 2023 State Area Designation Changes ..... 4
- Slide 10 Ozone Standard ..... 4
- Slide 11 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 4
- Slide 12 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 4
- Slide 13 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 4
- Slide 14 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 5
- Slide 15 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 5
- Slide 16 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 5
- Slide 17 Proposed Ozone Change ..... 5
- Slide 18 Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Standard ..... 5
- Slide 19 Proposed H<sub>2</sub>S Change ..... 5
- Slide 20 Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Standard..... 5
- Slide 21 Proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> Change ..... 6
- Slide 22 What's Next? ..... 6
- Slide 23 Further Information ..... 6
- Slide 24 Conclusion Slide..... 6

## 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 give 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 Zoom 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](mailto:theresa.najita@arb.ca.gov).

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

If you cannot see this presentation or lose connection with the webinar, this presentation (slides and text) will be placed on CARB's [state area designations webpage - current activities](#) after this workshop is completed. Which are located at [arb.ca.gov](http://arb.ca.gov) search designations and click on Current Activities. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to send them at any time through the webinar chat or questions box. 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](#). Thank you.

## Slide 3 Presentation Outline

Today's presentation will include the basic area designation process, the criteria, 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 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 for making area designations comes from a statewide air monitoring network. 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 2020 through 2022.

## Slide 6 Exceedance vs. Violation

When making designations, it is important to distinguish 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 discussing 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, some high values may be excluded from the designation process and not 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.

Data excluded as a State Exceptional Event is reflected in the designation category but not reflected in the designation value.

Finally, we designate areas as unclassified if they do not have sufficient data and 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 with a few exceedances but progressing 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 2023 State Area Designation Changes**

As I mentioned, the proposed 2023 changes to the area designations are based on the most recent air quality data - data collected from 2020 through 2022. Area designation changes are proposed for three of the ten criteria pollutants. As displayed in the graphic, there are eight areas with designation changes, seven changes for Ozone, one for Hydrogen Sulfide, and one for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

## **Slide 10 Ozone Standard**

The ozone designations are based on two standards - one for 8- hour ozone and one for 1-hour Ozone. Both these standards must be met for an area to be designated Attainment. This year, there are seven ozone changes.

## **Slide 11 Proposed Ozone Change**

Lake Tahoe Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 12 Proposed Ozone Change**

Amador County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 13 Proposed Ozone Change**

Calaveras County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 14 Proposed Ozone Change**

Placer County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 15 Proposed Ozone Change**

Butte County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 16 Proposed Ozone Change**

Feather River Air District, comprised of Sutter Buttes in Sutter County, the remainder of Sutter County, and Yuba County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 17 Proposed Ozone Change**

San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment-Transitional due to three or fewer exceedances occurring in the past year.

## **Slide 18 Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Standard**

The Hydrogen Sulfide designations are based on one standard. The 1-hour hydrogen sulfide standard is not to be equaled or exceeded.

## **Slide 19 Proposed H<sub>2</sub>S Change**

Riverside County in the Salton Sea Air Basin is currently designated unclassified. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment.

Monitoring data for the Mecca site are representative and complete for 2020 through 2022. Based on air quality data analysis and modeling, CARB staff worked with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to define the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin as the new Hydrogen Sulfide nonattainment area.

## **Slide 20 Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Standard**

PM<sub>2.5</sub> designations are based on one standard - an annual average. There is one proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> change.

## Slide 21 Proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> Change

Butte County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment. Exceptional events occurred in 2020, removing the exceedances due to the 2020 wildfires would bring Butte County into attainment.

## Slide 22 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 November 28<sup>th</sup>, and the 45-day comment period will begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The California Air Resources Board is currently scheduled to consider adopting these proposed changes at a public hearing on January 25, 2024.

## Slide 23 Further Information

Additional information can be obtained from the [state area designations webpage](#). 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 24 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.