

**State of California  
Air Resources Board**

**Executive Order S-24-015**

**Submittal into the California State Implementation Plan of the Portola Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Serious State Implementation Plan**

Whereas, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

Whereas, the Legislature in H&SC section 39602 has designated CARB as the air pollution control agency for all purposes set forth in federal law;

Whereas, CARB is responsible for preparing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining and maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS or standards) as required by the federal Clean Air Act (the Act) (42 U.S.C. section 7401 et seq.), and to this end is directed by H&SC section 39602 to coordinate the activities of all local and regional air pollution control and air quality management districts (districts) necessary to comply with the Act;

Whereas, section 39602 of the H&SC also provides that the SIP shall include only those provisions necessary to meet the requirements of the Act;

Whereas, section 41650 of the H&SC requires CARB to approve the nonattainment plan adopted by a district as part of the SIP unless the Board finds, after a public hearing, that the plan does not meet the requirements of the Act;

Whereas, sections 39515 and 39516 of the H&SC provide that any power, duty, purpose, function or jurisdiction of the Board may be delegated to the CARB Executive Officer as the Board deems appropriate;

Whereas, the districts have primary responsibility for controlling air pollution from nonvehicular sources and for adopting control measures, rules, and regulations to attain the standards within their boundaries, under sections 39002, 40000, 40001, 40701, 40702, and 41650 of the H&SC;

Whereas, CARB has responsibility for ensuring that the districts meet their responsibilities under the Act, under sections 39002, 39500, 39602, and 41650 of the H&SC;

Whereas, in December 2012, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued an annual standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS);

Whereas, effective April 2015, U.S. EPA designated the City of Portola and the surrounding communities, the Plumas County PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area, with a moderate classification for the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS;

Whereas, in August 2016, U.S. EPA finalized the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP implementation rule (Rule) which established the framework and requirements that states must meet in developing PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIPs based on provisions of Subpart 4 of the Act;

Whereas, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management (District) is the district responsible for air quality planning for the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area;

Whereas, CARB and the District developed the Portola Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Attainment Plan (Portola Moderate Plan) to address the moderate area requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS for the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area including an attainment demonstration by the moderate area deadline;

Whereas, U.S. EPA approved the elements of the Portola Moderate Plan on April 24, 2019, May 2, 2018, and April 2, 2021;

Whereas, the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area did not meet the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS by the moderate attainment date of December 31, 2021, despite the implementation of the Portola Moderate Plan;

Whereas, on January 30, 2023, U.S. EPA classified Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area as serious nonattainment for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS with an attainment deadline of December 31, 2025;

Whereas, the District developed the Portola Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Serious State Implementation Plan (Portola Serious Plan) to address serious area requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS, and demonstrate attainment of the standard by the serious deadline of December 31, 2025;

Whereas, Portola Serious Plan addresses requirements of the Act for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS for a serious area including emission inventories, attainment demonstration, reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations, quantitative milestones, best available control measure (BACM) demonstration, contingency measure, and motor vehicle emissions budgets;

Whereas, consistent with the Act and the Rule, the Portola Serious Plan includes a comprehensive, accurate, current inventory of emissions data for directly emitted PM2.5 and its precursors: nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), sulfur oxides (SOx), and ammonia for all sources of the relevant pollutants in the area;

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan includes a comprehensive precursor analysis to determine the significant precursors to be addressed in meeting the Act's requirements, including for BACM, RFP and contingency measures;

Whereas, based on the comprehensive precursor analysis, consistent with the PM2.5 Precursor Demonstration Guidance, the Portola Serious Plan demonstrates that direct PM2.5 emissions are the only significant contributor to the nonattainment problem, and thus, only direct PM2.5 control measures are included in the attainment strategy;

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan includes a Best Available Control Measure/Best Available Control Technology (BACM/BACT) demonstration for all significant stationary, area, and mobile sources of PM2.5 as required under the Act;

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan identifies emissions levels that demonstrate generally linear progress in emissions reductions between 2021, the baseline emissions inventory year, and 2025, the attainment year;

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan provides quantitative milestones as required under the Act; and commits to provide U.S. EPA a report on the quantitative milestones within 90 days of these milestone dates;

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan identifies contingency measures for attainment, quantitative milestones, and RFP;

Whereas, the CARB Staff Report includes a technical clarification that demonstrates that using the 2020 base year emissions inventory instead of the 2021 baseline year emissions inventory used in the Portola Serious Plan, has negligible impact on estimating RFP emission target, excess emissions reductions, and contingency and concludes that RFP demonstration and contingency meet the requirements of the Act;

Whereas, consistent with the Act, the Portola Serious Plan meets the requirement for conformity budgets which were developed in consultation with the District, transportation agencies, and U.S. EPA, that conform to the RFP emission levels in each milestone year and the attainment year;

Whereas, due to the nature of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> problem, the Portola Serious Plan attainment demonstration relies fully on emission reductions to be achieved from a voluntary wood stove change-out program which provides financial incentives for homeowners to replace high polluting wood stoves and fireplaces with less polluting home heating devices;

Whereas, via an Incentive Measure, the Portola Serious Plan demonstrates that the voluntary emission reductions met U.S. EPA's integrity elements for SIP-credible emission reductions, enforceable, quantifiable, surplus, and permanent;

Whereas, as part of the Incentive Measure enforceable commitment included in the Portola Serious Plan, CARB must submit annual demonstration reports and post them on the CARB website;

Whereas, consistent with the Act, the Portola Serious Plan includes conformity budgets which were developed in consultation with the District, transportation agencies, and U.S. EPA that conform to the RFP and the attainment emission levels;

Whereas, federal law set forth in section 110(l) of the Clean Air Act and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 51.102 requires that one or more public hearings, preceded by at least 30 days' notice and opportunity for review, must be conducted prior to the adoption and submittal to U.S. EPA of any state implementation plan revision;

Whereas, on November 25, 2024, following a duly noticed public hearing, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board adopted the Portola Serious Plan;

Whereas, on November 25, 2024, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District certified in their Board resolution that the Portola Serious Plan is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review under Sections 15061(b)(2) and 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines;

Whereas, CARB has determined that CARB's subsequent adoption of the Portola Serious Plan is a "ministerial" approval for purposes of California Environmental Quality Act, (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15268) because CARB's review is limited to

determining if the Portola Serious Plan meets the requirements of the Act, and CARB lacks authority to modify or not approve the plan in response to environmental concerns;

Whereas, on December 4, 2024, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District submitted the Portola Serious Plan to CARB as a SIP revision, along with proof of public notice publication, and environmental documents in accordance with State and federal law; and

Whereas, CARB staff reviewed the Portola Serious Plan and has concluded that, along with the CARB Staff Report, it meets the requirements of the Act for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS.

Now, therefore, be it ordered that the Executive Officer hereby adopts the Portola Serious Plan as a revision to the California SIP.

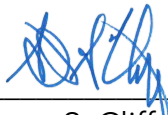
Be it further ordered that CARB hereby submits to U.S. EPA the Portola Serious Plan and requests that U.S. EPA approve it as a revision to the California SIP.

Be it further ordered that CARB staff work with the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and U.S. EPA and take appropriate action to resolve any completeness or approvability issues that may arise regarding the SIP submission.

Be it further ordered that CARB staff includes in the SIP submittal any technical corrections, clarifications, or additions that may be necessary to secure U.S. EPA approval.

I certify, pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 51.102(f), that the Portola Serious Plan was adopted after notice and public hearing as required by 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 51.102 (a) and (b).

Executed in Sacramento, California, this 24 of December, 2024.



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Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer