

# Proposed 2025 Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards

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## 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 Daisy Perault, 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 Microsoft Teams 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). The links throughout this presentation are also clickable.

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 the workshop is completed. This page can also be accessed via our main webpage at [arb.ca.gov](http://arb.ca.gov). Use the search feature to search for "designations" and after loading the State and Federal Area Designations page, click on Current Activities.

If you have questions or comments during the webinar, please feel free to send them at any time through the webinar chat. 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](#), or use the raise hand function and we will unmute 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 California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)

In 1959, California enacted legislation requiring the State Department of Public Health to establish air quality standards, known as the California Ambient Air Quality Standards, or CAAQS. The CAAQS cover four pollutants that are not covered by the national standards –

sulfates, H<sub>2</sub>S, visibility-reducing particles, and vinyl chloride). CARB makes designations for ten of the pollutants for which CAAQS were established.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and CARB's Research Division periodically review the health literatures to evaluate whether changes to the CAAQS are necessary based on new science.

## **Slide 5 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, updated where appropriate, and indicate whether the state health-based standards are being met.

## **Slide 6 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, using California-approved samplers (CAS). 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 2022 through 2024.

## **Slide 7 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, including extreme concentration events, exceptional events, and unusual concentration events. 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 8 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 9 Designation Categories Nonattainment-Transitional**

The nonattainment-transitional designation is a subset of the nonattainment category for standards with an averaging time less than or equal to 24 hours. 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.

The nonattainment-transitional designation is given to areas with a few exceedances but progressing and getting close to attaining the state standard.

## **Slide 10 Proposed 2025 State Area Designation Changes**

As I mentioned, the proposed 2025 changes to the area designations are based on the most recent air quality data - data collected from 2022 through 2024. Area designation changes are proposed for three of the ten criteria pollutants. As displayed in the graphic, there are seven areas with designation changes. In addition to the seven ozone area designation changes, one area has a PM<sub>10</sub> change and one area has a PM<sub>2.5</sub> change.

## **Slide 11 Ozone Standard**

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

## **Slide 12 Proposed Ozone Change - Lake Tahoe Air Basin**

The Lake Tahoe Air Basin includes portions of El Dorado and Placer Counties and is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment because there have been no violations in the last three years.

## **Slide 13 Proposed Ozone Change - Amador County**

Amador County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment due to violations occurring during the past three years.

## **Slide 14 Proposed Ozone Change - Calaveras County**

Calaveras County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment due to violations occurring during the past three years.

## **Slide 15 Proposed Ozone Change - Tuolumne County**

Tuolumne County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment due to violations occurring during the past three years.

## **Slide 16 Proposed Ozone Change - Sutter Buttes**

The Sutter Buttes in Sutter County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Nonattainment due to violations occurring during the past three years.

## **Slide 17 Proposed Ozone Change - Sutter County**

The remainder of Sutter County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment because there have been no violations in the last three years.

## **Slide 18 Proposed Ozone Change - Yuba County**

Yuba County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is currently designated Nonattainment-Transitional. The Yuba City monitor is located in Sutter County and is representative of the air quality in Yuba County. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment because there have been no violations in the last three years.

## Slide 19 Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) Standard

The Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) designations are based on two standards – one for 24-hours and one for an annual average. Both of these standards must be met for an area to be designated Attainment. This year there is one PM<sub>10</sub> change.

## Slide 20 Proposed PM<sub>10</sub> Change – Calaveras County

Calaveras County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin is currently designated as Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment because there have been no violations in the last three years.

## Slide 21 Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Standard

PM<sub>2.5</sub> designations are based on one standard – an annual average, not to be exceeded. There is one proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> change.

## Slide 22 Proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> Change – Sutter and Yuba Counties

Sutter and Yuba Counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin are currently designated Nonattainment. Staff propose to redesignate this area as Attainment because there have been no violations in the last three years.

## Slide 23 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 18, 2025, and the 45-day comment period will begin on November 21, 2025, and close on January 10, 2026. Any comments on the report must be submitted during the public comment period or during the board hearing to be considered official comments.

The California Air Resources Board is currently scheduled to consider adopting these proposed changes at a public hearing on January 22, 2026.

## Slide 24 Further Information

Additional information can be obtained from the [State Area Designations - Current Activities](#) webpage. You can receive email updates by [subscribing](#) to our webpage.

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

## Slide 25 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.