



Proposed 2026 Amendments to the Area Designations for State Air Quality Standards

Public Workshop
October 1, 2026

Logistics

- Presentation available online after the workshop
 - [State Area Designation – Current Activities](#)
- Questions during/after webinar
 - Q&A box
 - Chat box
 - Raise hand
 - If joining by Dial In, press *5 to raise your hand and *6 to mute/unmute
 - Contact email [Alan Huston](#) at Alan.Huston@arb.ca.gov

Presentation Outline

- California Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Designation Process & Criteria
- Proposed Designation Changes
- Next Steps
- Comments and Questions

California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)

- In 1959, California enacted legislation requiring the State Department of Public Health to establish [air quality standards](#).
- CARB makes area designations for ten pollutants for which (CAAQS) were established.
- CAAQS are reviewed periodically by OEHHA and CARB's Research Division

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California St	National Standards	
		Concentration ³	Primary ^{3,5}	Secondary ^{3,6}
Ozone (O ₃) ⁸	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m ³)	—	Same as Primary Standard
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)	
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10) ⁹	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³	150 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m ³	—	
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) ⁹	24 Hour	—	35 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m ³	9.0 µg/m ³	15.0 µg/m ³
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m ³)	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	—
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	—
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m ³)	—	—
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) ¹⁰	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m ³)	100 ppb (188 µg/m ³)	—
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m ³)	53 ppb (100 µg/m ³)	Same as Primary Standard
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) ¹¹	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m ³)	75 ppb (196 µg/m ³)	—
	3 Hour	—	—	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m ³)
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m ³)	0.14 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	—	0.030 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—
Lead ^{12,13}	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³	—	—
	Calendar Quarter	—	1.5 µg/m ³ (for certain areas) ¹²	Same as Primary Standard
	Rolling 3-Month Average	—	0.15 µg/m ³	
Visibility Reducing Particles ¹⁴	8 Hour	See footnote 14	No National Standards	
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m ³		
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)		
Vinyl Chloride ¹²	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³)		

CARB Designation Process

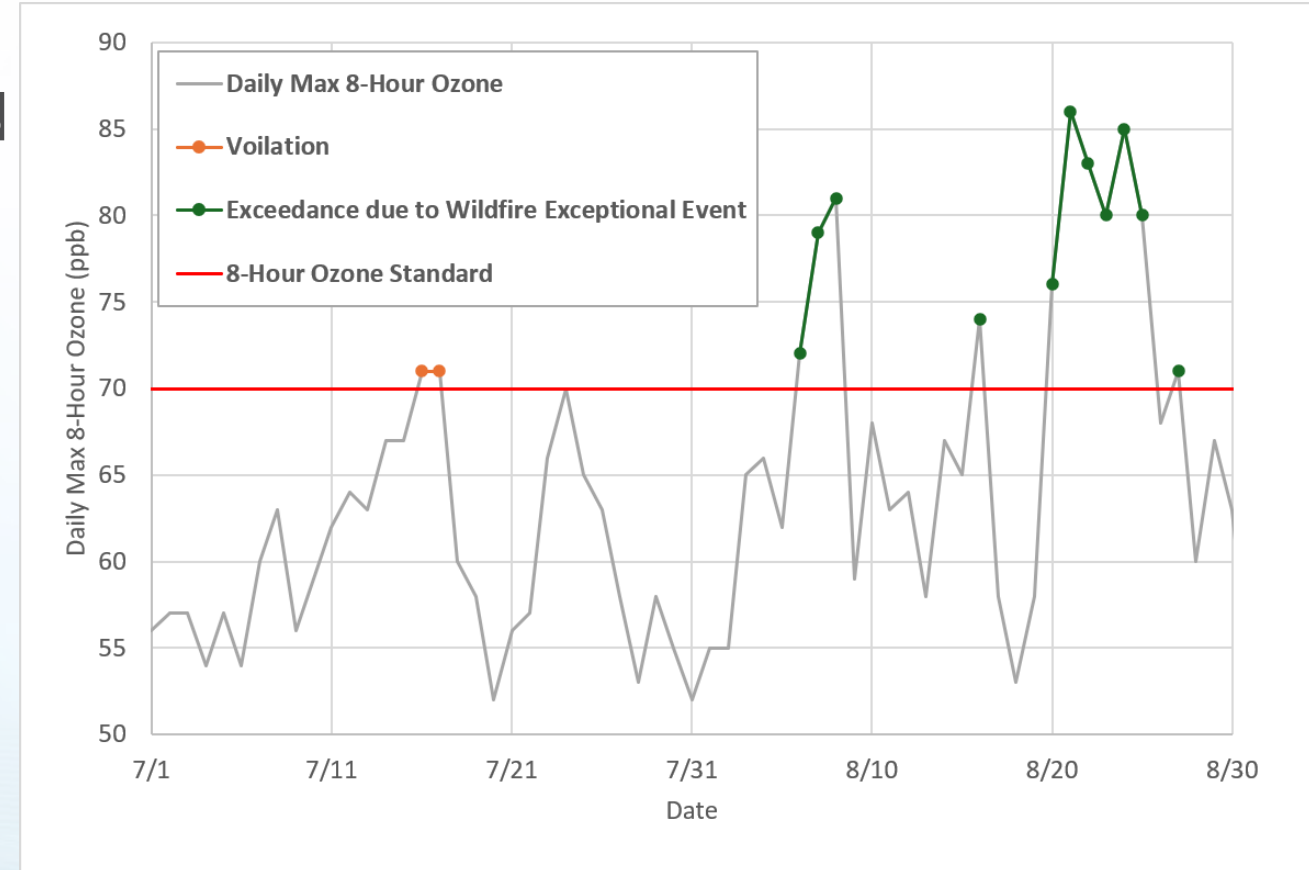
- Adopts CAAQS to protect public health and welfare
- Adopts designation criteria and area designations
- Reviews designations annually
- Updates designations where appropriate

Data Used in Designations

- "Data for Record"
 - Meet siting and quality assurance procedures
 - Collected by CARB, Districts, others
 - Reflect expected highest concentrations
- Time Period
 - Most recent 3 calendar years
 - Current review: 2023-2025

Exceedance vs. Violation

- Exceedance
 - Concentration higher than standard
 - Qualifying exceedances are excluded as Highly Irregular or Infrequent Events
- Violation
 - Exceedance not excluded as a Highly Irregular or Infrequent Event
- Not all exceedances are violations



Designation Categories

- Nonattainment
 - 1 or more violations in last 3 years
- Attainment
 - No violations in last 3 years
- Unclassified
 - Insufficient data

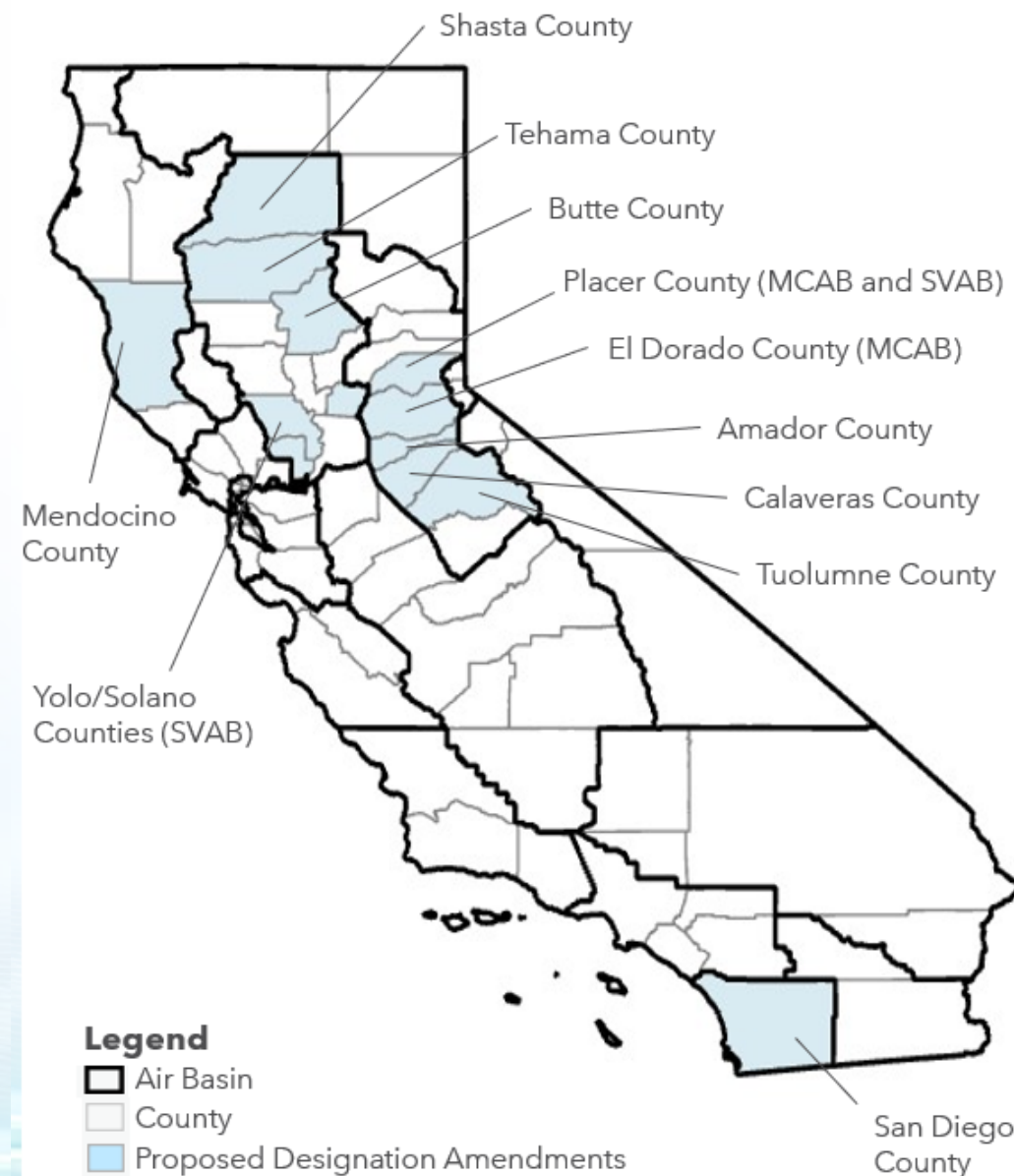
Designation Categories

Nonattainment-Transitional

- Nonattainment-Transitional For Ozone
 - 3 or fewer exceedances in last year
 - Designation area by District or entire portion of a District within an Air Basin (CCR, title 17, section 70303.5)
 - Highly irregular or infrequent events are not excluded
- Nonattainment-Transitional
 - Subcategory of Nonattainment
 - Does not always require CARB action

Proposed 2026 State Area Designation Changes

- Ozone – 10 areas
- Suspended Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) – 1 area
- Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) – 1 area

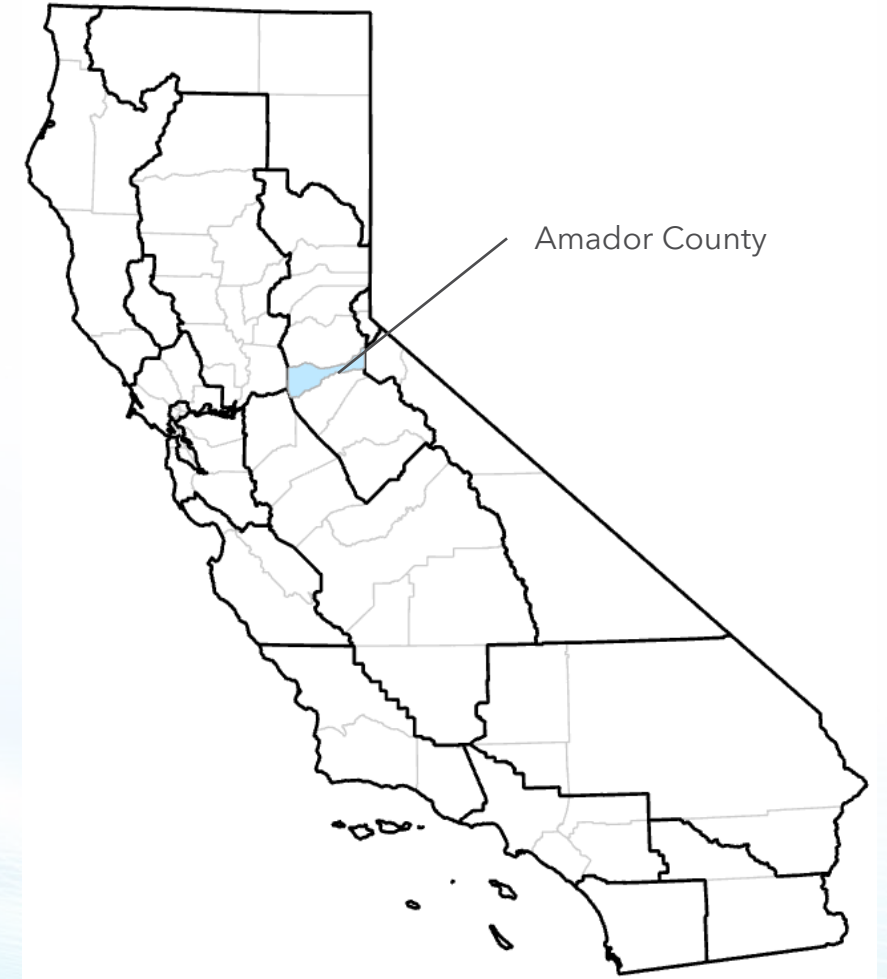


Ozone CAAQS

- Two Standards
 - 8-hour = 0.070 ppm
 - 1-hour = 0.09 ppm
 - Neither are to be exceeded
- Areas must meet both standards for Attainment designation
- H&SC sections 40924, 40925 require triennial plans and annual updates for Nonattainment Areas

Proposed Ozone Change - Amador County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Mountain Counties Air Basin
Amador County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High site is Jackson-Clinton Road
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.076 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- 0 exceedances in 2025



Proposed Ozone Change - Calaveras County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Mountain Counties Air Basin
Calaveras County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High site is San Andreas-Gold Strike Road
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.077 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- 0 exceedances in 2025



Proposed Ozone Change - El Dorado County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Mountain Counties Air Basin
El Dorado County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High site is Cool-Highway 193
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.076 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- 1 exceedance at Cool Site in 2025



Proposed Ozone Change - Placer County Attainment

- Mountain Counties Air Basin
Placer County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment-Transitional
 - Proposed: Attainment
- High site is Colfax-City Hall
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.070 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.08 ppm



Proposed Ozone Change - Tuolumne County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Mountain Counties Air Basin
Tuolumne County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High site is Sonora-Barretta Street
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.074 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.08 ppm
- 1 exceedance in 2025



Proposed Ozone Change - Butte County Nonattainment

- Sacramento Valley Air Basin
Butte County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment-Transitional
 - Proposed: Nonattainment
- High site is Chico-East Avenue
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.071 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- Does not meet criteria for NA-T



Proposed Ozone Change - Shasta County Nonattainment

- Sacramento Valley Air Basin
Shasta County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment-Transitional
 - Proposed: Nonattainment
- High site is Shasta Lake-13791 Lake Blvd
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.074 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- Does not meet criteria for NA-T



Proposed Ozone Change - Yolo/Solano Counties Attainment

- Sacramento Valley Air Basin
Yolo and Solano Counties
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment-Transitional
 - Proposed: Attainment
- High site is Davis-UCD Campus
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.069 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.08 ppm



Proposed Ozone Change - Placer County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Sacramento Valley Air Basin
Placer County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High sites are Auburn and Roseville
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.083 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.09 ppm
- 2 exceedances at each site in 2025



Proposed Ozone Change - Tehama County Nonattainment-Transitional

- Sacramento Valley Air Basin
Tehama County
- Designation
 - Current: Nonattainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment-Transitional
- High site is Tuscan Butte
 - 8-hour designation value = 0.075 ppm
 - 1-hour designation value = 0.08 ppm
- 1 exceedance at the Red Bluff site in 2025



Suspended Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) CAAQS

- Two Standards
 - 24-hour = 50 µg/m³
 - Annual Average = 20 µg/m³
 - Neither are to be exceeded
- Areas must meet both standards for Attainment designation
- H&SC includes no planning requirements

Proposed PM₁₀ Change - Mendocino County Nonattainment

- North Coast Air Basin
Mendocino County
- Designation
 - Current: Attainment
 - Proposed: Nonattainment
- High site is Fort Bragg-300 Dana Street
 - Annual Average = 13 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 - 24-hour = 51 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) CAAQS

- One Standard
 - 1-hr = 0.03 ppm
 - Not to be equaled or exceeded
- H&SC includes no planning requirements

Proposed H₂S Change - San Diego County Nonattainment

- San Diego Air Basin
San Diego County
- Designation
 - Current: Unclassified
 - Proposed: Nonattainment
- High site is Berry Elementary School
 - 1-hr designation value = 0.52 ppm



What's Next?

- Post staff report (Initial Statement of Reasons)
 - December 1, 2026
- 45-day public comment period
 - Opens: December 4, 2026
 - Closes: January 19, 2027
- Board Hearing
 - If requested, proposed February 2027

Further Information

- Online information

[State Area Designations](#) webpage

Sign up to receive notifications regarding State Area Designations

- Contacts

- [Alan Huston](#) (PM) – 279-842-9813
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- Questions



Questions & Comments

Q&A box

Chat box

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