

# State of California Air Resources Board Board Item Summary

## Item # 22-3-1: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed 2021 Amendments to Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards

### Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the proposed amendments to the area designations regulations to reflect current air quality data.

### Discussion:

CARB is required to annually review and designate areas of California with respect to the State ambient air quality standards and amend the designations if appropriate. Based on a review of air quality data collected during 2018 through 2020, CARB staff recommend the Board change the designation of several areas for the State nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards. These recommendations were developed with public input, including a public workshop held on October 22, 2021.

For the State NO<sub>2</sub> standards, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of CA 60 near-road portion of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties in the South Coast Air Basin from nonattainment to attainment. For the State PM<sub>10</sub> standards, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of Mendocino County in the North Coast Air Basin from nonattainment to attainment. For the State PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of Santa Barbara County in the South Central Coast Air Basin from unclassified to attainment.

### Summary and Impacts:

State law requires CARB to review and update area designations for State standards as new information becomes available. The area designations are labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area. Because these regulations by themselves are labels of an area's air quality, they do not contain any specific requirements for action. However, there may be legal requirements based on an area's designation status, including a reporting requirement for local air districts. As a result, in most cases, changes to area designations have no specific, direct economic impact. In general, this regional approach to categorizing air quality allows each district to identify the most cost-effective and efficient approach to achieve the State ambient air quality standards.

The proposed amendments neither require local agencies to undertake a new program nor to provide an increased level of service in an existing program. The proposed change in the area designation for South Coast Air Basin, from nonattainment to attainment for NO<sub>2</sub> will remove a reporting requirement, but the air district will continue reporting based on ozone nonattainment designation status; therefore, there will be no fiscal impact cost change to the South Coast Air Quality Management District which oversees this area.