

**State of California  
Air Resources Board  
Board Item Summary**

**Item # 23-1-1: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed 2022  
Amendments to the 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 2019 through 2021, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of several areas for the State ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards. These recommendations were developed with public input, including a public workshop held on September 21, 2022.

For the State ozone standard, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of Lake Tahoe Air Basin from attainment to nonattainment, Amador County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and Shasta County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment, and Tuolumne County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and Santa Barbara County in the South Central Coast Air Basin from nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of Sutter and Yuba Counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin from attainment to nonattainment.

**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 change in ozone designation from attainment to nonattainment for Lake Tahoe Air Basin will reinstate a reporting requirement for Placer County Air Pollution Control District and El Dorado Air Quality Management District which jointly oversee air quality planning in this air basin, resulting in some cost to these districts.