

TITLE 17. CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) will conduct a public hearing at the time and place noted below, to consider adopting amendments to the regulations designating areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified for pollutants with State ambient air quality standards set forth in section 70200 of title 17, California Code of Regulations.

DATE: June 23, 2011

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

This item will be considered at a one-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., June 23, 2011. This item is scheduled to be heard on the Board's Consent Calendar. All items on the consent calendar will be voted on by the Board immediately after the start of the public meeting. An item will be removed from the consent calendar at the request of a Board member or if someone in the audience would like to speak on that item.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST OF PROPOSED ACTION AND POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Sections Affected: Proposed amendments to title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 60201.

Background: The Board is charged with the responsibility of adopting ambient air quality standards for each air basin in consideration of the public health, safety, and welfare (Health and Safety Code (H&SC) § 39606). To date, the Board has adopted State ambient air quality standards (State Standards) for ten pollutants, set forth in CCR, title 17, section 70200. In addition, H&SC section 39607(e) requires the Board to establish designation criteria which provide the basis for designating areas of California as attainment or nonattainment with respect to the State standards. The designation criteria are set forth in CCR, title 17, sections 70300 through 70306, and appendices 1 through 3 thereof. Based on these designation criteria, H&SC section 39608 further requires ARB to establish and annually review area designations for State standards.

During the annual review, ARB determines whether changes to the existing area designations are warranted, based on an evaluation of recent air quality data.

This year's review of the area designations is based on air quality data from 2007 through 2009. The proposed amendments provide for one change for ozone, as summarized below:

- Designate the Northeast Plateau Air Basin as attainment for ozone. The Air Basin comprises three counties. Siskiyou County is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional, while Lassen and Modoc counties are currently designated as unclassified.

In addition, there are two changes for ozone that occur by operation of law. Under H&SC section 40925.5, changes for ozone between nonattainment and nonattainment-transitional or vice versa, occur by operation of law. While these changes do not require formal ARB action, ARB's designation criteria contain guidelines for confirming such changes. Therefore, staff is proposing that ARB confirm the changes below and modify the designation regulations to reflect these automatic changes.

- Confirm the change in designation for Lake Tahoe Air Basin from nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional.
- Confirm the change in designation for Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment.

COMPARABLE FEDERAL REGULATIONS

There are no comparable federal or local regulations that address area designations for the State (California) standards.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND CONTACT PERSONS

ARB staff has prepared a Staff Report: Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the proposed regulatory action, which includes a summary of the economic and environmental impacts of the proposal. The Staff Report is entitled: "Initial Statement of Reasons for Proposed Rulemaking: Proposed 2011 Amendments to the State Area Designations and Maps."

Copies of the ISOR and the full text of the proposed regulatory language, in underline and strike-out format to allow for comparison with the existing regulations, may be accessed on ARB's website, listed below, or may be obtained from the Public Information Office, Air Resources Board, 1001 I Street, Visitors and Environmental Services Center, First Floor, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 322-2990, on May 5, 2011.

Upon its completion, the Final Statement of Reasons (FSOR) will be available, and copies may be requested from the agency contact persons in this notice, or may be accessed on ARB's website, listed below.

Inquires concerning the substance of the proposed regulations may be directed to the designated agency contact persons: Ms. Gayle Sweigert, Manager, Air Quality Analysis Section, (916) 322-6923, or Ms. Marcella Nystrom, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Air Quality Analysis Section, at (916) 323-8543.

Further, the agency representative and designated back-up contact persons to whom nonsubstantive inquiries concerning the proposed administrative action may be directed are Ms. Lori Andreoni, Manager, Board Administration and Regulatory Coordination Unit, (916) 322-4011, or Ms. Trini Balcazar, Regulations Coordinator, (916) 445-9564. The Board has compiled a record for this rulemaking action, which includes all the information upon which the proposal is based. This material is available for inspection upon request to the contact persons.

This notice, the ISOR, and all subsequent regulatory documents, including the FSOR, when completed, are available on the ARB website for this rulemaking at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2011/area11/area11.htm>.

COSTS TO PUBLIC AGENCIES AND TO BUSINESSES AND PERSONS AFFECTED

The determinations of the Board's Executive Officer concerning the costs or savings necessarily incurred by public agencies and private persons and businesses in reasonable compliance with the proposed regulations are presented below.

The proposed amendments to the area designation regulations do not contain any requirements for action. The area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area. Because these regulations by themselves contain no requirements for action, they have no direct economic impact, and the following general determinations are appropriate.

Pursuant to Government Code sections 11346.5(a)(5) and 11346.5(a)(6), the Executive Officer has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not create costs or savings to any State agency or in federal funding to the State, costs or mandate to any local agency or school district whether or not reimbursable by the State pursuant to Government Code, title 2, division 4, part 7 (commencing with section 17500), or other nondiscretionary savings to state or local agencies.

In developing this regulatory proposal, ARB staff evaluated the potential economic impacts on representative private persons or businesses. The ARB is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

The Executive Officer has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, or on representative private persons.

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.3, the Executive Officer has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not affect the creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California, the creation of new businesses or elimination of existing businesses within the State of California, or the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California. A detailed assessment of the economic impacts of the proposed regulatory action can be found in the ISOR.

The Executive Officer has also determined, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 4, that the proposed regulatory action would not affect small businesses because the proposed regulatory action does not contain any requirements for action.

Before taking final action on the proposed regulatory action, the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Board, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Board, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and comments may be submitted by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. The public comment period for this regulatory action will begin on May 9, 2011. To be considered by the Board, written comments not physically submitted at the meeting must be submitted on or after May 9, 2011, and received **no later than 12:00 noon, June 22, 2011**, and must be addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

New Feature

You can now sign up online in advance to speak at the Board meeting when you submit an electronic board item comment. For more information go to:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/board/online-signup.htm>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released

to the public upon request. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

ARB requests that written and email statements on this item be filed at least 10 days prior to the hearing so that ARB staff and Board members have additional time to consider each comment. The Board encourages members of the public to bring to the attention of staff in advance of the hearing any suggestions for modification of the proposed regulatory action.

Additionally, the Board requests but does not require that persons who submit written comments to the Board reference the title of the proposal in their comments to facilitate review.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

This regulatory action is proposed under that authority granted in Health and Safety Code, sections 39600, 39601, 39607, 39608, and 40925.5. This action is proposed to implement, interpret, and make specific Health and Safety Code, sections 39607, 39608, and 40925.5.

HEARING PROCEDURES

The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the California Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, title 2, division 3, part 1, chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 11340).

Following the public hearing, the Board may adopt the regulatory language as originally proposed, or with non-substantial or grammatical modifications. The Board may also adopt the proposed regulatory language with other modifications if the text as modified is sufficiently related to the originally proposed text that the public was adequately placed on notice that the regulatory language as modified could result from the proposed regulatory action; in such event, the full regulatory text, with the modifications clearly indicated, will be made available to the public, for written comment, at least 15 days before it is adopted.

The public may request a copy of the modified regulatory text from ARB's Public Information Office, Air Resources Board, 1001 I Street, Visitors and Environmental Services Center, First Floor, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 322-2990.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

Special accommodation or language needs can be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the hearing;
- Have documents available in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print, etc.) or another language;
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled Board hearing. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Comodidad especial o necesidad de otro idioma puede ser proveído para alguna de las siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia.
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo (por decir, sistema Braille, o en impresión grande) u otro idioma.
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax a (916) 322-3928 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de 10 días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

/s/

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: April 26, 2011

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.arb.ca.gov.