

## UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

### AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Sections Affected: Amendments to title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 60201, pursuant to sections 39608 and 40925.5 of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC).

Summary: Pursuant to section 39606 of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC), the California Air Resources Board (Board or ARB) is charged with the responsibility of adopting standards of ambient air quality for each air basin in consideration of public health, safety, and welfare. The Board has adopted State ambient air quality standards (State standards) for ten pollutants, set forth in CCR, title 17, section 70200. The California Clean Air Act in H&SC section 39607(e) requires the Board to establish and periodically review designation criteria which provide the basis for designating areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified with respect to the State standards.

The Board originally adopted designation criteria in 1989 and has modified them several times since then, the last time in March 2010. The designation criteria are set forth in CCR, title 17, sections 70300 through 70306, and appendices 1 through 4, thereof. Based on these designation criteria, the California Clean Air Act in 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.

Following the public hearing on June 23, 2011, the Board, by Resolution 11-21, adopted amendments to the area designation regulations, which set forth the area designations for State standards. The Board makes area designations for ten pollutants: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. The area designations comprise CCR, title 17, sections 60200 through 60210.

ARB staff reviewed the area designations based on air quality data from 2007 through 2009. Based on this review, the Board adopted one amendment, which changed the area designations for ozone. The amendment designated the three-county Northeast Plateau Air Basin as attainment for ozone. Previously, two counties in the Air Basin, Lassen and Modoc counties, were designated as unclassified, while the remaining county, Siskiyou County, was designated as nonattainment-transitional. In addition to adopting this change in designation, the Board confirmed the redesignation of Lake Tahoe Air Basin as nonattainment-transitional (previously designated as nonattainment) and Glenn County in the

Sacramento Valley Air Basin as nonattainment (previously nonattainment-transitional). These redesignations occurred by operation of law under H&SC section 40925.5. The Board adopted amendments to the area designation regulations to reflect these changes.

The staff proposal was the same as that described in the Initial Statement of Reasons for Proposed Rulemaking (Staff Report) released on May 5, 2011. At the hearing, the Board adopted the amendments to the area designation regulations as proposed by the staff.