

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Sections Affected: Proposed amendment to title 17, California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code of Regulations), section 60201, pursuant to sections 39608 and 40925.5 of the Health and Safety Code (Health and Saf. Code).

Summary: Pursuant to section 39606 of the Health and Saf. Code, the California Air Resources Board (Board or CARB) 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 Cal. Code of Regulations, title 17, section 70200. The California Clean Air Act in Health and Saf. Code 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 Cal. Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 70300 through 70306, and appendices 1 through 3, thereof. Based on these designation criteria, the California Clean Air Act in H&SC section 39608 further requires CARB to establish and annually review area designations for State standards. During the annual review, CARB determines whether changes to the existing area designations are warranted. The designation criteria give the Executive Officer, or his or her delegate, the authority to designate areas as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State standards and hold a public hearing, if requested, to review any proposed changes to the State standards.

The Board makes area designations for ten pollutants: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine suspended particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. The area designations comprise Cal. Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60200 through 60210.

CARB staff reviewed the area designations based on air quality data from 2016 through 2018. Based on this review, the Board adopted amendments which changed the area designations for ozone. In the South Central Coast Air Basin, Santa Barbara County was redesignated as attainment. In the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, Yuba County and that portion of Sutter County outside of the Sutter Buttes area were redesignated as nonattainment.

The staff proposal was the same as that described in the Initial Statement of Reasons for Proposed Rulemaking released on October 22, 2019. One comment was received during the public comment period, but was not responsive to the amendments in this rulemaking and no response was necessary.