

*State of California*  
*AIR RESOURCES BOARD*

***STAFF REPORT: Initial Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking***

***Proposed  
2013 Amendments to  
Area Designations for State Ambient Air  
Quality Standards***

Date of Release: October 23, 2013

This report has been reviewed by the staff of the California Air Resources Board and approved for publication. Approval does not signify that the contents necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Air Resources Board, nor does mention of trade names of commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Air Resources Board (ARB) has established State ambient air quality standards (State Standards or Standards) to protect public health and welfare. State law requires ARB to assess the air quality in each area of California and determine whether it meets State Standards. These area designations are based on established criteria, ensuring they are made in a consistent manner. ARB annually reviews area designations for all State Standards, using the most currently available air quality data. Each area of the State is designated as one of four categories:

- **Attainment** – pollutant concentrations do not violate the State Standard
- **Nonattainment** – pollutant concentrations violate the State Standard
- **Nonattainment-Transitional** – pollutant concentrations violate the State Standard, but air quality is nearing attainment
- **Unclassified** – insufficient data

### **Proposed Changes to the Area Designation Regulations**

This review of the area designations is based on 2010 through 2012 air quality data. Based on these data, ARB staff is proposing amendments to current area designation regulations for lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). These amendments require formal ARB action. All of the proposed amendments are summarized in Table ES-1.

### **Other Information in this Staff Report**

State law requires ARB to annually review and publish maps and tables identifying the attainment status of each area of the State with respect to both the State and national ambient air quality standards (national standards). Updated maps and tables are provided in Appendix C to this report. They reflect the proposed amendments to area designations for State Standards that are summarized in this staff report and the current area designations for the national standards.

**TABLE ES-1**  
**PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE STANDARDS**  
*(Based on 2010-2012 data)*

Pollutant	Designation Area	Current Designation	Proposed Designation
<b>Ozone</b>	<b>Sacramento Valley Air Basin</b>		
	Colusa County	NA-T	A
	Glenn County	NA-T	A
	Solano County	NA-T	N
	Yolo County	NA-T	N
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>South Coast Air Basin</b>		
	Entire Air Basin	N	A
<b>Lead</b>	<b>South Coast Air Basin</b>		
	Los Angeles County	N	A
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>North Coast Air Basin</b>		
	Del Norte County	N	A
	Trinity County	N	A
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>	<b>Sacramento Valley Air Basin</b>		
	Glenn County	U	A
	Sacramento County	N	A
	<b>Salton Sea Air Basin</b>		
	Remainder of Air Basin	U	A

*Designation Categories:*

A = Attainment; N = Nonattainment; NA-T = Nonattainment-Transitional; U = Unclassified.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### CHAPTER I

#### BACKGROUND

A. INTRODUCTION .....	1
B. STATE AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS .....	1
C. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS .....	1
D. PROBLEM .....	2
E. PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND GOALS OF THE REGULATIONS .....	3
F. PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF THE AMENDMENTS .....	3
G. RATIONALE .....	4
H. PUBLIC PROCESS .....	4

### CHAPTER II

#### AREA DESIGNATION CRITERIA

A. INTRODUCTION .....	5
B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE DESIGNATION CRITERIA .....	5
C. DESIGNATION CATEGORIES .....	5
D. DATA REQUIREMENTS .....	6
E. SIZE OF DESIGNATED AREA .....	7
F. HIGHLY IRREGULAR OR INFREQUENT EVENTS .....	7

### CHAPTER III

#### SUMMARY AND RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION .....	9
B. DESIGNATION PROCESS .....	10
C. DESIGNATION VALUE .....	10
D. OZONE .....	11
1. Sacramento Valley Air Basin .....	11
E. NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	12
1. South Coast Air Basin .....	12
F. LEAD .....	12
1. South Coast Air Basin .....	13
G. SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER (PM <sub>10</sub> ) .....	13
1. North Coast Air Basin .....	13
H. FINE PARTICULATE MATTER (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) .....	14
1. Sacramento Valley Air Basin .....	14
2. Salton Sea Air Basin .....	15

**CHAPTER IV**

**ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

A. REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE AMENDMENTS ..... 17  
B. REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD LESSEN THE  
IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS ..... 17

**CHAPTER V**

**IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING  
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS PREPARED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT  
CODE SECTION 11346.3**

A. INTRODUCTION ..... 19  
B. ECONOMIC IMPACTS ..... 19  
    1. Legal Requirement ..... 19  
    2. Potential Impact on Businesses, Business Competitiveness,  
        Employment, and Business Creation, Elimination, or Expansion ..... 19  
    3. Potential Cost to Local and State Agencies ..... 20  
C. AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS ..... 21  
D. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BENEFITS ..... 21  
E. IMPACTS FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS ..... 21  
F. PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND GOALS ..... 22  
G. OTHER IMPACTS AND BENEFITS ..... 22

**CHAPTER VI**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS**

A. INTRODUCTION ..... 25  
B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS ..... 25  
C. PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS ..... 25  
D. PROPOSED REGULATION ..... 26  
    1. Description ..... 26  
    2. Methods of Compliance ..... 26  
E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ..... 27  
    1. Beneficial Impacts ..... 27  
    2. Resource Areas with No Impacts ..... 27

**APPENDICES**

A. AREA DESIGNATION CRITERIA ..... A-1  
B. PROPOSED 2013 AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS ..... B-1  
C. MAPS AND TABLES OF AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR  
    STATE AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS ..... C-1  
D. CONVENTION FOR ROUNDING AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DATA ..... D-1  
E. REFERENCES ..... E-1

# CHAPTER I

## BACKGROUND

### ***A. INTRODUCTION***

This chapter provides background information on the differences between the State and national ambient air quality standards, the legal requirements for the State designation criteria and area designation regulations, the purpose and benefits of the regulations, the implications of the various designation categories, and the public process used in developing the proposed area designation amendments that are described in Chapter III.

### ***B. STATE AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS***

California law requires ARB to establish State ambient air quality standards (State Standards or Standards) in consideration of public health, safety, and welfare. These Standards define the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be present in the ambient air. Currently, there are State Standards for ten pollutants: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. In addition to the State Standards, the federal Clean Air Act requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to establish national ambient air quality standards (national standards). In some cases, California's State Standards are more health-protective than the corresponding national standards. Additionally, ARB has established State Standards for pollutants not covered by national standards (sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles).

Both State and national standards are generally specified as a concentration averaged over a specific time period, such as 1-hour, 8-hours, 24-hours, 30-days, or 1 year. The different averaging times and concentrations are meant to protect against different exposure impacts. Some ambient air quality standards are expressed as a concentration that is not to be exceeded, while others are expressed as a concentration that is not to be equaled or exceeded. The national standards are further categorized as primary standards (established to protect public health) and secondary standards (established to protect public welfare). Appendix C contains a table listing the State and national standard levels, averaging times, and analytical measurement methods.

### ***C. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS***

Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 39607(e) requires ARB to establish and periodically review criteria for designating areas as attainment or nonattainment for the State Standards. The criteria (summarized in Chapter II) describe the procedures that

ARB must use in determining area designations for State Standards. ARB originally adopted the required designation criteria in June 1989 and has updated them several times since, most recently, in March 2010.

H&SC section 39608 requires ARB to use the designation criteria to designate areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State Standards. In addition, HS&C section 40925.5 provides for the redesignation of a nonattainment district as nonattainment-transitional for ozone by operation of law. Finally, H&SC section 39608 requires ARB to conduct an annual review of the area designations and update them, as warranted. The area designations are made for each of the ten pollutants previously listed.

In addition to the designation criteria and area designation requirements, H&SC section 40718 requires ARB to publish maps showing the areas with one or more violations of any State or national standard. The maps and summary tables provided in Appendix C to this report fulfill this requirement by indicating the attainment status of each area of the State. The maps and tables for the State Standards reflect the proposed area designation amendments described in Chapter III of this report. The maps and tables for the national standards reflect the current national area designations, as promulgated by U.S. EPA.

#### ***D. PROBLEM***

Each year, ARB monitors air pollutants in California in cooperation with local air pollution control and air quality management districts (districts) and with other agencies. Based on these monitoring data, and in consultation with the districts, ARB is required to annually identify and designate each area which is in attainment and each area which is in nonattainment for each State ambient air quality standard. ARB must make this identification and designation on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis. Where ARB finds that data are not sufficient to determine the attainment or nonattainment status for an air basin, ARB must identify the air basin as unclassified, unless the area has been previously identified as attainment, nonattainment, or nonattainment-transitional and no recent data for record (defined in California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 70301(a))<sup>1</sup> justify redesignating the area.

---

<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 70301(a) provides, "Except as otherwise provided in this article, designations shall be based on 'data for record.' ¶(1) Data for record are those data collected by or under the auspices of the state board or the districts for the purpose of measuring ambient air quality, and which the Executive Officer or his or her delegate has determined comply with the siting and quality assurance procedures established in Part 58, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations or other equivalent procedures. ¶(2) Any other data which are provided by a district or by any other person will be data for record if the Executive Officer or his or her delegate determines within 90 days of submittal of complete supporting documentation that the data comply with the siting and quality assurance procedures established in Part 58, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations or other equivalent procedures..."

Based upon the most recent complete and quality-assured monitoring results, using the best available technological capabilities and the best scientific judgment, ARB must annually publish maps identifying those areas which violate any State or national ambient air quality standard.

ARB has completed its annual review of the latest complete monitoring data (2010 to 2012). These data indicate that the previous designations for certain pollutants in certain air basins are no longer applicable. Therefore, the healthfulness of the air quality in these affected air basins is not accurately portrayed to the public and the districts. ARB proposes to update the designations to be consistent with the monitoring data.

#### ***E. PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND GOALS OF THE REGULATIONS***

H&SC section 39608 requires ARB to monitor air quality and to annually designate each air basin as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State ambient air quality standards based on these data. Likewise, H&SC section 40718 requires ARB to publish maps identifying those cities, counties, or portions thereof which violate any State or national ambient air quality standard. Collectively, the purposes, benefits, and goals of these two statutes, which are identified as references to this rulemaking, are:

- To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, including those at risk of adverse effects with exposure to air pollution, such as children, the elderly, and people who are active outdoors;
- To safeguard the quality of the physical environment in which Californians live by an intensive, coordinated State, regional, and local effort to protect and enhance the ambient air quality of the State;
- To encourage a regional approach to meeting State ambient air quality standards throughout the State, whenever possible; and
- To be consistent with the State goal of providing a decent home and suitable living environment for every Californian.

#### ***F. PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF THE AMENDMENTS***

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to update the area designations using the most recent, complete air quality data for each pollutant. Currently, there are State Standards for ten pollutants: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. The proposed amendments will change the designation of the specified air basin, or portion thereof, as attainment,

nonattainment, or unclassified for the State ambient air quality standards based on these data.

Because these regulations by themselves are simply labels of an area's air quality, they do not contain any specific requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district. Therefore, the proposed amendments to the area designations will not result in any direct impact on public health or the environment. However, indirect benefits to the quality of the physical environment may result if the district adopts or amends its regulations with a goal toward achieving the Standards. For a more detailed discussion of the impacts and benefits of the proposed amendments, see Chapter V.

### ***G. RATIONALE***

The proposed amendments satisfy the statutory requirement to annually review and update the area designations based on the most recent, complete, and quality-assured air quality monitoring results, i.e., from 2010 through 2012. As the area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area, the proposed amendments do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

### ***H. PUBLIC PROCESS***

In order to facilitate public comment during the designation review process, ARB staff requested public input in a number of ways. After ARB staff's initial review of the 2010 through 2012 air quality data, staff noted potential changes to the existing area designations for lead, NO<sub>2</sub>, ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Staff contacted the affected districts to discuss the results of the review and provide an opportunity for district input. Staff also maintained a web-based subscriber notification process or listserv. For those who subscribe, the listserv provides electronic updates related to area designation issues.

On August 13, 2013, staff announced a public workshop scheduled for August 29, 2013. This workshop was held in the form of a webinar. Staff posted the workshop notice on the ARB website and notified the affected districts, as well as subscribers to the designation listserv. The workshop announcement included a discussion of the staff's proposed amendments to the area designations based on the 2010 through 2012 air quality data. Approximately 25 stakeholders participated in the workshop. No public comments were received during or after this workshop.

## CHAPTER II

### AREA DESIGNATION CRITERIA

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The following sections describe the general provisions of the existing designation criteria, the area designation categories, the data requirements, the size of the designated area, and the requirements for identifying highly irregular or infrequent events. Appendix A contains the full text of the designation criteria.

#### **B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE DESIGNATION CRITERIA**

The designation criteria describe the procedures ARB must use in determining an area's designation status with respect to the State Standards. In summary, the designation criteria specify:

- The requirements for each designation category;
- The data to use in making area designation determinations;
- The procedure for excluding qualifying high concentrations;
- The size of the designated area; and
- The requirement for an annual review of the area designations.

#### **C. DESIGNATION CATEGORIES**

The designation criteria specify four designation categories: nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, attainment, and unclassified. Determining which category is appropriate for an area is generally based on the number of violations in the area. Therefore, it is essential to understand the difference between an exceedance and a violation. An exceedance is any concentration that is higher than the level of the State Standard. In contrast, violations are a subset of exceedances. A violation is an exceedance that is not affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event and therefore, cannot be excluded from the area designation process (refer to Section F, below).

*Nonattainment.* ARB designates an area as nonattainment for a pollutant if air quality data show a State Standard for that pollutant was violated one or more times during the previous three calendar years.

*Nonattainment-Transitional.* The nonattainment-transitional category is a subcategory of nonattainment, with different requirements for ozone than for the other pollutants. For non-ozone pollutants, ARB designates an area as nonattainment-transitional if air quality data show a State Standard for that pollutant was violated two or fewer times at each site in the area during the most recent calendar year. In contrast, the

nonattainment-transitional requirements for ozone are specified in State law rather than in the designation criteria. Specifically, H&SC section 40925.5 specifies that a nonattainment district is designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone if air quality data show three or fewer exceedances of the State Standard at each site in the area during the most recent calendar year.

There are four key differences in the ozone nonattainment-transitional requirements, compared with those for the other pollutants. First, the designated area is always a district (or portion of a district within an air basin), rather than an air basin, county, or other geographic area. Second, the designation is based on exceedances, which means all air quality measurements are considered -- none are excluded. Third, only nonattainment districts may be designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. Finally, the ozone nonattainment-transitional designation from nonattainment occurs by operation of law and is non-discretionary. ARB updates the area designation regulations to reflect the change.

Attainment. In contrast to nonattainment and nonattainment-transitional, ARB designates an area as attainment for a pollutant if data show the State Standard was not violated during the previous three calendar years. Data used for an attainment designation must be representative of the averaging time of the Standard and complete for the time period evaluated.

Unclassified. Finally, ARB designates an area as unclassified for a pollutant if the available data are insufficient to support any other designation category.

#### **D. DATA REQUIREMENTS**

To the extent possible, the area designations are based on the most recent air quality data. These must be data for record (defined in California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 70301(a)), which means they satisfy specific siting and quality assurance procedures established by the U.S. EPA and ARB. Generally, data for record are those data collected by or under the direction of ARB or the local districts. Air quality data from other sources may also qualify as data for record, as long as the same requirements are met. For area designation purposes, air quality measurements and statistics are rounded to the precision of the State Standard before being compared with the Standard. The rounding convention is summarized in Appendix D.

When adequate and recent air quality data are not available, ARB may use other types of information to determine an appropriate area designation. These other types of information may include historical air quality data, emissions data, meteorological data, topographical data, and data relating to the characteristics of population or emissions.

## **E. SIZE OF DESIGNATED AREA**

The size of the area designated for a pollutant varies, depending on the nature of the pollutant, the location of contributing emissions sources, meteorology, and topographic features. An air basin is the area generally designated for pollutants with a regional impact: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfates, and visibility reducing particles. A county (or portion of a county located within an air basin) is generally the area designated for pollutants with a more localized impact: carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and hydrogen sulfide. Depending on the area and the characteristics of the emissions sources, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> may be considered to have either regional or localized impacts. In some cases, ARB may designate a smaller area if it finds that the smaller area has distinctly different air quality.

## **F. HIGHLY IRREGULAR OR INFREQUENT EVENTS**

The designation criteria provide for excluding certain high air quality measurements from the area designation process. More specifically, the criteria provide for excluding exceedances affected by highly irregular or infrequent events, because it is not reasonable to mitigate these exceedances through the regulatory process. Appendix 2 to the designation criteria (refer to Appendix A) defines three types of highly irregular or infrequent events:

- Extreme concentration events
- Exceptional events
- Unusual concentration events

*Extreme Concentration Event.* An extreme concentration is identified using a statistical procedure. This procedure calculates a concentration that is not expected to be exceeded more than once per year, on average. The calculated value is commonly called the Expected Peak Day Concentration or EPDC. In practice, a pollutant-specific EPDC is calculated for each monitoring site, using air quality data measured at the site during the most recent three calendar years. The EPDC value is rounded to the precision of the State Standard and then compared with air quality measurements for the same site, which are also rounded to the precision of the State Standard. Measurements that exceed the State Standard and are higher than the rounded EPDC are excluded from the area designation process; these exceedances are not considered violations of the Standard. In contrast, measurements that exceed the State Standard but are equal to or lower than the rounded EPDC are not excluded from the designation process; these values are considered violations of the State Standard.

In cases where data are not complete for the three-year period being evaluated, the EPDC may not be valid for area designation purposes. If the EPDC is not valid, no measurements are excluded as extreme concentration events. Finally, an EPDC is calculated only for Standards with an averaging time equal to or less than 24-hours.

*Exceptional Event.* In contrast to an extreme concentration event, an exceptional event is an exceedance of a State Standard that is caused by a specific, identifiable event and is beyond reasonable regulatory control. An exceptional event may be caused by an act of nature (for example, a wildfire or severe windstorm) or it may be of human origin (for example, a chemical spill or industrial accident). Air quality measurements identified as exceptional events are not considered violations and are excluded from the designation process.

*Unusual Concentration Event.* An unusual concentration is an unexpected or atypical exceedance of a State Standard that cannot be identified as an extreme concentration or an exceptional event. Unusual concentrations are identified only for areas already designated as attainment or unclassified. Generally, unusual concentrations are identified for sites with limited air quality data, and therefore, uncertainty as to the expected concentration levels. In identifying such events, the Executive Officer must make specific findings based on relevant information. An area may retain its attainment or unclassified designation based on the exclusion of unusual concentrations for up to three consecutive years. If an exceedance occurs during the fourth year, the area is redesignated as nonattainment, unless the exceedance can be excluded as an extreme concentration or an exceptional event.

## CHAPTER III

# SUMMARY AND RATIONALE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS

### A. INTRODUCTION

As required by H&SC section 39608, the area designations are reviewed and updated each year, based on air quality data from the most recent three calendar years. This year's review considered air quality data collected during 2010 through 2012. Based on these data, staff proposes amendments to the area designations for lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). These changes, listed below, amend the existing California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 17, sections 60201, 60203, 60205, 60207, and 60210. The proposed amendments, once adopted by ARB, must be approved by the Office of Administrative Law before they become effective.

- *Proposed Changes to Ozone Area Designations (section 60201):*
  - *Redesignate Colusa County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Yolo County and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin portion of Solano County from Nonattainment-transitional to Nonattainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Area Designations (section 60203):*
  - *Redesignate the South Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) Area Designations (section 60205):*
  - *Redesignate Del Norte County in the North Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Trinity County in the North Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Lead Area Designations (section 60207):*
  - *Redesignate Los Angeles County in the South Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Area Designations (section 60210):*
  - *Redesignate the remainder of the Salton Sea Air Basin (outside of the City of Calexico) as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Sacramento County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*

All references used in the development of this regulatory proposal are found in Appendix E.

## **B. DESIGNATION PROCESS**

The area designations are based on air quality data for record as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 70301 of the designation criteria (refer to Chapter II, section D). The process used to designate an area is generally the same for each pollutant:

- Gather data for the three-year period for each site in the area;
- Evaluate data representativeness and data completeness for each site;
- Identify and exclude exceedances affected by highly irregular or infrequent events;
- Tabulate the number of exceedances and violations by site;
- Determine the designation value for each site;
- Determine the designation value for the area; and
- Determine the appropriate designation category.

Determining the designation value is the most critical part of the designation process because the designation value determines the designation category. More detail about the designation value and how it is determined is found in the following section.

## **C. DESIGNATION VALUE**

The designation value is the measured concentration that is used to determine the designation status of a given area. In practice, the designation value is the highest measured concentration in the three-year period that remains, after excluding concentrations affected by highly irregular or infrequent events.

A designation value is determined for each pollutant, for each monitoring site in an area. The highest designation value for any site in the area becomes the designation value for the area. When there is more than one Standard for a single pollutant, a designation value is determined for each Standard averaging time. For example, there is both a 1-hour and an 8-hour State Standard for ozone. As a result, there is a 1-hour designation value, as well as an 8-hour designation value. The final area designation reflects the more stringent designation category for either of the two averaging periods. Using ozone as an example, consider an area with a 1-hour ozone designation value that is lower than the State Standard, indicating attainment and an 8-hour designation value that is higher than the State Standard, indicating nonattainment. In this case, the area would be designated as nonattainment for ozone, because that is the more stringent designation category.

## ***D. OZONE***

The State ozone standards are a 1-hour Standard of 0.09 parts per million (ppm) and an 8-hour Standard of 0.070 ppm, neither to be exceeded. To be attainment, the designation values for all sites in the area must be at or below both Standards. H&SC section 40925.5 specifies that a nonattainment district is designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone if air quality data show three or fewer exceedances of the State Standard at each site in the area during the most recent calendar year; this designation occurs by operation of law and is non-discretionary. Based on data collected during 2010 through 2012, staff recommends a change in designation to attainment for two areas. In addition, staff recommends changes for two other areas from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment.

### *1. Sacramento Valley Air Basin*

#### *a. Glenn County*

The staff recommends designating Glenn County as attainment for ozone. Glenn County is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional. During 2010 through 2012, monitoring data are available for a site located in Willows. Measured concentrations do not exceed the State 1-hour or 8-hour ozone Standards. The 8-hour designation value is 0.069 ppm, which is below the State 8-hour ozone Standard, and there were no exceedance days during 2012. Glenn County meets all the requirements for attainment.

#### *b. Colusa County*

The staff recommends designating Colusa County as attainment. Colusa County is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional. During 2010 through 2012, monitoring data are available for a site located in Colusa. Measured concentrations do not exceed the State 1-hour or 8-hour ozone Standards. The 8-hour designation value is 0.067 ppm, which is below the State 8-hour ozone Standard, and there were no exceedance days during 2012. Colusa County meets all the requirements for attainment.

#### *c. Yolo and Solano Counties*

The staff recommends redesignating Yolo County and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) portion of Solano County as nonattainment. Yolo County and the SVAB portion of Solano County comprise the Yolo-Solano Air Pollution Control District. The area is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional. During 2010 through 2012, monitoring data are available for three sites and data are considered representative and complete. The 8-hour designation value is 0.080 ppm, which is above the State 8-hour ozone Standard, and there were nine exceedance days during 2012. Therefore, the

area no longer qualifies as nonattainment-transitional and should be designated as nonattainment.

### ***E. NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO<sub>2</sub>)***

The State nitrogen dioxide standards are a 1-hour Standard of 0.18 parts per million (ppm) and an annual Standard of 0.030 ppm, neither to be exceeded. To be attainment, the designation values for all sites in the area must be at or below the level of both Standards. Based on data collected during 2010 through 2012, the staff recommends one area designation change.

#### *1. South Coast Air Basin*

The staff recommends designating the South Coast Air Basin as attainment for nitrogen dioxide. The South Coast Air Basin includes the southwestern portion of Los Angeles County, all of Orange County, and the western urbanized portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Currently, the Basin is designated as nonattainment. During 2010 through 2012, data are available for 26 monitoring sites distributed throughout the four counties.

The 1-hour designation value for 2010 through 2012 was 0.09 ppm at three sites: Long Beach-2425 Webster Street, Los Angeles-North Main Street, and North Long Beach. All three sites have 2 years of complete and representative data, as required when the designation value is half to less than three-quarters the level of a State Standard. The annual designation value for the Basin is also below the Standard, at 0.026 ppm for the Pomona monitoring site. As required by the area designation criteria, data for this site are complete and representative for all three years. Based on these data, which show compliance with the State nitrogen dioxide standards, the staff recommends the South Coast be designated as attainment for nitrogen dioxide.

### ***F. LEAD***

The State lead standard is a 30-day average Standard of 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), not to be equaled or exceeded. To be attainment, the designation values for all sites in the area must be below the level of the Standard. Based on data collected during 2010 through 2012, the staff recommends one area designation change.

1. *South Coast Air Basin*

a. *Los Angeles County*

The staff recommends designating the Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) as attainment for lead. That portion of Los Angeles County is currently designated nonattainment.

Monitoring data are available for six ambient monitoring sites and seven source-oriented monitoring sites in the Los Angeles County portion of SCAB. The seven source-oriented sites are located near facilities with known lead emissions, such as lead acid battery recycling facilities and airports. Monitoring data from these source-oriented sites consistently show the highest lead concentrations in the South Coast Air Basin.

During 2010 through 2012, 30-day average lead concentrations at all sites in the Los Angeles County portion of the SCAB were less than half the level of the State Standard. The designation value for Los Angeles County was 0.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , measured at Rehrig (Exide). Data for Rehrig (Exide) are both representative and complete for all three years. Thus, the Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin now qualifies as attainment.

**G. *SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER (PM<sub>10</sub>)***

The State PM<sub>10</sub> standards are a 24-hour Standard of 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and an annual Standard of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , neither to be exceeded. To be attainment, the designation values for all sites in the area must be at or below both Standards. Based on data collected during 2010 through 2012, the staff recommends a change in designation for two areas.

1. *North Coast Air Basin*

a. *Del Norte County*

The staff recommends designating Del Norte County as attainment for PM<sub>10</sub>. Del Norte County is located in the far northwest corner of California and is part of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). It is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, to the north by the State of Oregon, to the east by Siskiyou County, and to the south by Humboldt County.

Data completeness criteria, set forth in “Criteria for Determining Data Completeness”, contained in Appendix 3 to CCR, title 17, section 70304, allows for the redesignation of an area to attainment with little or no air quality data if the most recent air quality data did not violate the State Standard and was complete and representative, that emissions

have not increased to a level that would allow for exceedance of the State Standard, and that no violation of the State Standard had occurred.

Del Norte County met the requirements for attainment for both PM<sub>10</sub> Standards. In addition, emissions have not increased to a level to which the State Standard would be violated. Based on these data, which show compliance with section 70304 as noted above and in Appendix 3, the staff recommends Del Norte County be designated as attainment for PM<sub>10</sub>.

*b. Trinity County*

The staff recommends designating Trinity County as attainment for PM<sub>10</sub>. Trinity County is located in the far northwest corner of California and is part of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). It is bordered on the west by Humboldt County, to the north by Siskiyou County in the Northeast Plateau Air Basin, to the east by Shasta and Tehama Counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, and to the south by Mendocino County.

Data completeness criteria, set forth in “Criteria for Determining Data Completeness”, contained in Appendix 3 to CCR, title 17, section 70304, allows for the redesignation of an area to attainment with little or no air quality data if the most recent air quality data did not violate the State Standard and was complete and representative, that emissions have not increased to a level that would allow for exceedance of the State Standard, and that no violation of the State Standard had occurred.

Trinity County met the requirements for attainment for both PM<sub>10</sub> Standards. In addition, emissions have not increased to a level to which the State annual standard would be violated. Based on these data, which show compliance with section 70304 as noted above and in Appendix 3, the staff recommends Trinity County be designated as attainment for PM<sub>10</sub>.

***H. FINE PARTICULATE MATTER (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)***

The State PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is an annual Standard of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, not to be exceeded. Based on data collected during 2010 through 2012, the staff recommends a change in designation for three areas.

*1. Sacramento Valley Air Basin*

*a. Glenn County*

The staff recommends designating Glenn County as attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), currently designated as unclassified, coincides in area with the Glenn County Air Pollution Control District.

During 2010 through 2012, monitoring data are available for the only active PM<sub>2.5</sub> site, located in Willows in Glenn County. This site had three years of complete data below the annual Standard with a designation value of 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

*b. Sacramento County*

The staff recommends designating Sacramento County as attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Sacramento County in the SVAB, currently designated as nonattainment, coincides in area with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

Data completeness criteria, set forth in “Criteria for Determining Data Completeness”, contained in Appendix 3 to CCR, title 17, section 70304, allows for the use of one year of complete data, if the maximum pollutant concentration is less than half the applicable State ambient air quality standard, or the use of two years of complete data, if the maximum concentration is less than three-quarters of the Standard.

During 2010 through 2012, monitoring data are available for four of five active PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitors located in Sacramento County. Two monitoring sites, including the high site at Sacramento-Del Paso, had three years of complete data below the annual Standard with a designation value of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. One site, Folsom, has two years of complete data with a maximum concentration of 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, less than three-quarters of the applicable Standard. The site at Sacramento-T Street has incomplete data for 2012, but 2009-2011 data, the most recent complete air quality data, did not violate the Standard. In addition, analysis of data at both this site and the remaining site, Elk Grove, which also did not have complete data, indicates that concentrations are well below the State Standard. Based on these data, Sacramento County qualifies as attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

*2. Salton Sea Air Basin*

*a. Remainder of Basin (excluding the City of Calexico)*

The staff recommends designating the portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) that lies outside of the City of Calexico as attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. This area is located in the southeast portion of California and is comprised of Imperial County and the central portion of Riverside County within the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Data completeness criteria, set forth in “Criteria for Determining Data Completeness”, contained in Appendix 3 to CCR, title 17, section 70304, allows for the use of one year of complete data, if the maximum pollutant concentration is less than half the applicable State ambient air quality standard, or the use of two years of complete data, if the maximum concentration is less than three-quarters of the Standard.

During 2010 through 2012, three years of complete monitoring data are available for two of four sites located in the SSAB outside of the City of Calexico. These sites, including the high site at Indio in Riverside County, are below the annual Standard with a designation value of  $8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . A third site, El Centro, in Imperial County, has two years of complete data with a design value of  $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , less than three-quarters of the Standard. The remaining site, Brawley, also in Imperial County, did not have complete data for any of the three years, however, analysis of the data available indicates that concentrations at this site are well below the State Standard and below the high site of Indio. Based on these data, SSAB outside of the City of Calexico qualifies as attainment for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ .

## CHAPTER IV

### ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

State law (H&SC section 39607(e)) requires ARB to establish criteria for designating areas as attainment or nonattainment for the State Standards. State law (H&SC section 39608(c)) further requires ARB to use the designation criteria in an annual review of the area designations.

ARB staff's proposed amendments to the area designations are described in Chapter III. The proposed amendments reflect the application of the designation criteria set forth in CCR, title 17, sections 70300 through 70306 and Appendices 1 through 3, thereof. Each proposed amendment is accompanied by a discussion of its basis and justification.

#### ***A. REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE AMENDMENTS***

ARB staff considered potential alternatives to the proposed amendments (namely, the no action alternative). ARB staff find the proposed amendments are more appropriate than the no action alternative, which would be inconsistent with State law, and would retain designations based on older, outdated data. In addition, the no action alternative would not inform the public or districts about the healthfulness of air quality, based on the most recent data.

#### ***B. REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD LESSEN THE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS***

ARB staff have also considered the potential alternatives to the proposed amendments that would lessen any adverse impact on small business (namely, the no action alternative). However, as discussed above, the proposed amendments are more appropriate than the no action alternative, which would retain the unclassified designation for Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin outside of the City of Calexico and the nonattainment designation for Sacramento County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, rather than the proposed attainment designation, for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. In addition, the no action alternative would retain the nonattainment designations for Los Angeles County for lead, the South Coast Air Basin for NO<sub>2</sub>, and Del Norte and Trinity Counties in the North Coast Air Basin for PM<sub>10</sub>, retain the nonattainment-transitional designation for Colusa and Glenn Counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin for ozone, and retain the nonattainment-transitional designations for Yolo and Solano counties for ozone. The no action alternative would not lessen or increase any impact on small businesses.

No alternative considered by the agency would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

## CHAPTER V

### IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS PREPARED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11346.3

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The intent of the proposed regulatory action is to update the air quality designations for each air basin, or portion thereof, to be consistent with the most recent complete monitoring data. Adopting the proposed amendments to the area designations will not result in any direct impact on public health or the environment because the regulations by themselves are simply labels of an area's air quality; they do not contain any specific requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. As a result, they have no specific, direct economic impact.

#### **B. ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

ARB staff do not expect the proposed amendments to have any significant adverse economic impacts on California employment, business status, or competitiveness.

##### *1. Legal Requirement*

The Government Code requires State agencies proposing to adopt or amend any administrative regulation to assess the potential for adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals. The assessment shall include consideration of the impact of the proposed regulatory amendments on California jobs, business expansion, elimination, or creation, and the ability of California businesses to compete in other States.

State agencies are also required to estimate the cost or savings to any State or local agency and school district in accordance with instructions adopted by the Department of Finance. This estimate is to include non-discretionary costs or savings to local agencies and the costs or savings in federal funding to the State.

##### *2. Potential Impact on Businesses, Business Competitiveness, Employment, and Business Creation, Elimination, or Expansion*

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

The proposed amendments to the area designation regulations do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area. Because the area designation regulations contain no specific requirements for action, other than the triennial plan, they have no direct economic impact, and the following general determinations are appropriate.

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

The Executive Officer also has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action will 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 will 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.

The Executive Officer has also determined, pursuant to CCR, title 1, section 4, that the proposed regulatory action will not affect small businesses because the proposed regulatory action does not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

Before taking final action on the proposed regulatory action, ARB must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the agency, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency, 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.

### *3. Potential Cost to Local and State Agencies*

As stated above, the proposed amendments to the area designations do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon

monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide, and these regulations have no direct economic impact. Therefore, pursuant to Government Code sections 11346.5(a)(5) and 11346.5(a)(6), the Executive Officer has determined that the proposed regulatory action will 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 under Part 7 (commencing with section 17500), Division 4, Title 2 of the Government Code, or other nondiscretionary savings to State or local agencies.

Before taking final action on the proposed amendments to the regulations, ARB must determine that no alternative considered by ARB 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.

### ***C. AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS***

The proposed amendments to the area designations label areas with respect to the healthfulness of their air quality. They do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Therefore, they will not result in any direct air quality or environmental benefits. However, indirect benefits to the quality of the physical environment may result if the district adopts or amends its regulations with a goal toward achieving the Standards..

### ***D. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BENEFITS***

ARB is committed to evaluating community impacts of proposed regulations, including environmental justice concerns. Because some communities experience higher exposures to air pollutants, it is a priority of ARB to ensure that full protection is afforded to all Californians. The proposed amendments to the area designations do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. However, the area designations are designed to identify areas with unhealthful air quality, based on the most recently available complete data.

### ***E. IMPACTS FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS***

State law requires districts and ARB to make a coordinated effort to protect and enhance the ambient air quality (H&SC sections 39001 through 39003). As part of this effort, the districts must adopt rules and regulations sufficiently effective to achieve and maintain the State Standards (H&SC sections 40001 and 41500). These requirements, if determined necessary, will result in improved air quality in communities throughout the State, resulting in lower potential health risks.

## **F. PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND GOALS**

*Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.* The designations provide labels indicating the healthfulness of the current air quality throughout the State. These labels allow the public to make better informed decisions regarding their personal health, safety, and welfare.

*Safeguarding the quality of the physical environment.* This goal is to be accomplished by an intensive, coordinated State, regional, and local effort to protect and enhance the ambient air quality of the State. ARB and the districts have coordinated their efforts in obtaining and reviewing air quality monitoring data, identifying highly irregular or infrequent events, and evaluating meteorological, topographical, and other data relating to the characteristics of population or emissions. This coordinated effort has resulted in the proposed amendments to the area designations. As the area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area, the proposed amendments do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

*Encouraging a regional approach to meeting the State ambient air quality standards whenever possible.* The proposed amendments designate areas as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified by pollutant. Where appropriate, these designations are made for each air basin, district, or sub-region based on meteorological, topographical, and other data relating to the characteristics of population or emissions. This allows each district to identify the most cost-effective, efficient, and acceptable approach to achieve the State ambient air quality standards.

*Consistency with the State goal of providing a decent home and suitable living environment.* As the area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area, the proposed amendments do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The annual review and update of the area designations provides the public with an indication of whether the health-based standards are being met. This information allows the public to make more educated decisions regarding personal residency.

## **G. OTHER IMPACTS AND BENEFITS**

The annual review and update of the area designations gives the public, businesses, and government an indication of whether the health-based standards are being met. This information allows the public to make more educated decisions regarding personal health and residency, as well as participation in outdoor activities. This information also

allows businesses and government the opportunity to make better informed decisions regarding worker health and safety.

*[This page intentionally left blank]*

## CHAPTER VI

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides an environmental analysis for the proposed regulation. Based on ARB's review, staff has determined that implementing the *Proposed 2013 Amendments to Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards* would not result in any potentially significant adverse impacts on the environment. This analysis provides the basis for reaching this conclusion. This section of the report also discusses environmental benefits expected from implementing the proposed regulation.

#### **B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

ARB is the lead agency for the proposed regulation and has prepared this environmental analysis pursuant to its regulatory program certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency (14 CCR 15251(d); 17 CCR 60005-60007). In accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), public agencies with certified regulatory programs are exempt from certain CEQA requirements, including but not limited to preparing environmental impact reports, negative declarations, and initial studies (14 CCR 15250). ARB has prepared this environmental analysis (EA) to assess the potential for significant adverse and beneficial environmental impacts associated with the proposed regulation, as required by ARB's certified regulatory program (17 CCR 60005(b)). The resource areas from the CEQA Guidelines Environmental Checklist were used as a framework for assessing the potential for significant impacts (17 CCR 60005(b)).

If comments received during the public review period raise significant environmental issues, staff will summarize and respond to the comments in the Final Statement of Reasons (FSOR) prepared for the regulation. The final decision-maker will approve the written responses to comments prior to taking final action on the proposed regulation (17 CCR 60007(a)). If the regulation is adopted, a Notice of Decision will be posted on ARB's website and filed with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for public inspection (17 CCR 60007(b)).

#### **C. PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The regulation was originally developed pursuant to the California Clean Air Act of 1988 (Act) and adopted by the ARB in June 1989. The 2013 proposed amendments to the regulation are necessary to support the Act to maintain a comprehensive program of emission reduction measures and planning requirements for the State and the districts in areas where the State Standards are not attained. Previous staff reports for this

regulation and its revisions adopted by ARB do not identify any adverse environmental impacts.

## **D. PROPOSED REGULATION**

### *1. Description*

As previously noted in Chapter III of this report, the proposed amendments include the following changes:

- *Proposed Changes to Ozone Area Designations (section 60201):*
  - *Redesignate Colusa County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Yolo County and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin portion of Solano County from Nonattainment-transitional to Nonattainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Area Designations (section 60203):*
  - *Redesignate the South Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) Area Designations (section 60205):*
  - *Redesignate Del Norte County in the North Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Trinity County in the North Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Lead Area Designations (section 60207):*
  - *Redesignate Los Angeles County in the South Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*
- *Proposed Changes to Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Area Designations (section 60210):*
  - *Redesignate the remainder of the Salton Sea Air Basin (outside of the City of Calexico) as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Glenn County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*
  - *Redesignate Sacramento County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as Attainment.*

### *2. Methods of Compliance*

The proposed amendments to the area designations do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The area designations label areas with respect to the healthfulness of their air quality.

## **E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### *1. Beneficial Impacts*

The proposed amendments to the area designations do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Therefore, they will not result in any direct air quality or environmental benefits. However, the area designations do label areas with respect to the healthfulness of their air quality.

### *2. Resource Areas with No Impacts*

Based on ARB's review of the proposed regulation, staff concludes that the regulation would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, as explained in further detail below:

The regulation changes the labels that indicate the healthfulness of the current air quality throughout the State. They do not contain any requirements for action, other than the review, adoption, and submittal of a triennial plan by the district to correct for deficiencies in meeting the Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Therefore, they will not result in any direct air quality or environmental impacts.

No discussion of alternatives or mitigation measures is necessary because no significant adverse environmental impacts were identified.