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Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Status

San Joaquin Valley Attainment Status

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish health-based national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), designate nonattainment areas, and promulgate planning requirements, for six criteria pollutants. Similarly, the state establishes California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), which require incremental progress towards attainment. Over the years, the District and CARB have adopted numerous State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to attain the NAAQS, which serve as the primary vehicles for improving air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. Each SIP builds upon the work of prior plans, while establishing the path for continued air quality improvements. Following the adoption of each attainment plan, the District implements plan strategies through regulatory development, outreach, continued research, and incentive programs. For additional information on San Joaquin Valley attainment plans, visit our [Air Quality Plans webpage](#).

Units of measure for the standards described below are parts per million (ppm) by volume, parts per billion (ppb) by volume, and micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³).

Pollutant	Designation/Classification	
	Federal Standards ^a	State Standards ^b
Ozone - One hour	Attainment ^f	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone - Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme ^e	Nonattainment
PM10	Attainment ^c	Nonattainment
PM2.5	Nonattainment ^d	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment

Lead (Particulate)	No Designation/Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

^a See 40 CFR Part 81

^b See CCR Title 17 Sections 60200-60210

^c On September 25, 2008, EPA redesignated the San Joaquin Valley to attainment for the PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and approved the *2007 PM10 Maintenance Plan*.

^d The Valley is designated nonattainment for the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. EPA designated the Valley as nonattainment for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS on November 13, 2009 (effective December 14, 2009).

^e Though the Valley was initially classified as serious nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, EPA approved Valley reclassification to extreme nonattainment in the Federal Register on May 5, 2010 (effective June 4, 2010).

^fEffective June 15, 2005, EPA revoked the federal 1-hour ozone standard, including associated designations and classifications. EPA had previously classified the District as extreme nonattainment for this standard. On March 8, 2010, EPA approved the 2004 Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan on March 8, 2010. In July of 2016, EPA determined that the Valley had attained the 1-hour ozone standard based on certified data for the 2012-2014 period. Subsequently, on September 25, 2025, EPA approved the *2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard* as meeting all CAA requirements. EPA also finalized the Valley's attainment redesignation request and terminated all anti-backsliding obligations for the revoked 1-hour ozone standard.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Concentration
Ozone	8 Hour (1997)	0.08 ppm
	8 Hour (2008)	0.075 ppm
	8 Hour (2015)	0.07 ppm
	1 Hour (1979)	(revoked)
Carbon Monoxide	8 Hour	9 ppm
	1 Hour	35 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide	1-hour	100 ppb
	Annual	53 ppb
Sulfur Dioxide	1-hour	75 ppb
	3-hour	0.5 ppm

PM 10	Annual	(revoked)
	24 Hour	150 µg/m ³
PM 2.5 (1997 Standard)	Annual	15 µg/m ³
	24 Hour	65 µg/m ³
PM 2.5 (2006 Standard)	Annual	15 µg/m ³
	24 Hour	35 µg/m ³
PM 2.5 (2012 Standard)	Annual	12 µg/m ³
	24 Hour	35 µg/m ³
Lead	Rolling three-month period, evaluated over a three-year period	0.15 µg/m ³

^a See <https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table> ↗

California Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Concentration
Ozone	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)
	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m ³)
Carbon Monoxide	8 Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)
	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m ³)
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m ³)
	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m ³)
Sulfur Dioxide	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m ³)
	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m ³)
PM 10	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m ³
	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³
PM 2.5	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m ³
	24 Hour	none
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m ³
Lead	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³

Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)
Vinyl Chloride (chloroethene)	24 Hour	0.010 ppm (26 µg/m ³)
Visibility Reducing particles	8 Hour	(see below ^b)

ppm=parts per million
mg/m³=milligrams per cubic meter
µg/m³=micrograms per cubic meter

^a See <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf>
^b In 1989, CARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

For assistance or if you have any questions, please feel free to [contact us](#).

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