



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

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Gray Davis
Governor

September 23, 2003

**Public Workshop to Discuss the Area Designations
for State Ambient Air Quality Standards
and Proposed Amendments to the Area Designation Criteria**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The staff of the California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workshop and provide input about the proposed area designations for State ambient air quality standards (State standards). The staff will also discuss proposed amendments to the criteria for designating areas of California with respect to the State standards. The Board is currently scheduled to consider changes to the area designations and proposed amendments to the area designation criteria in January 2004.

The workshop will be held at the time and location shown below:

DATE: October 15, 2003
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room North and South
First Floor
ARB Monitoring and Laboratory Division
1927 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

For your convenience, additional information about the meeting location and parking is provided in Attachment 1. If you have special accommodation or language needs, please contact the meeting coordinator, Ms. Marcella Nystrom, at (916) 323-8543 or mnystrom@arb.ca.gov as soon as possible. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

*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: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Area Designations

To protect public health, the Board has adopted health-based State standards. These State standards define the maximum amount of air pollutant that can be present in ambient (outdoor) air. State law further requires the ARB to establish and annually review the area designations for State standards. Areas are designated as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified for each State standard. During the annual review, ARB determines whether changes to the existing area designations are warranted, based on an evaluation of recent air quality data.

Area designations are based on air quality data for the most recent three calendar years. This year's area designations are based on data collected from 2000 through 2002. In past years, the ARB has made area designations for nine pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. This year marks the first time the ARB will be making area designations for the new State PM_{2.5} standard that the Board adopted in June 2002.

The State PM_{2.5} standard is 12 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), measured as an annual arithmetic mean. When the Board adopted the PM_{2.5} standard, they also made modifications to the existing State PM₁₀ and sulfates standards. The Board lowered the existing State annual PM₁₀ standard from 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and revised the averaging method (from an annual geometric mean to an annual arithmetic mean). In addition, the Board changed the measurement method for the State sulfates standard, but left the level of the standard unchanged. The old method was based on total suspended particulate matter (TSP) measurements, while the new method is based on PM₁₀ measurements. All of these changes became effective on July 5, 2003.

Staff's proposed area designations are summarized in Attachment 2. These include new designations for PM_{2.5} and changes in area designations for ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfates. Although the Board recently revised the level and averaging method for the State annual PM₁₀ standard, our preliminary review of air quality data indicates no changes are needed to the existing area designations for this pollutant. However, we are reviewing additional data that may indicate a need for further evaluation of whether changes to the PM₁₀ designations for the Mountain Counties Air Basin are appropriate. The Board must adopt all the proposed changes to the area designations, except the ozone nonattainment-transitional designations, at a public hearing that is currently scheduled for January 2004. In contrast, the two nonattainment-transitional designations for ozone occur by operation of law.

At the public workshop, ARB staff will present an overview of the proposed changes to the area designations and provide an opportunity for public input. In addition, staff will

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discuss several areas of the State where the air quality data would appear to signal a change in area designation, but for which we do not propose any change. Examples include areas with incomplete data, improperly sited monitors, or exceedances excluded as highly irregular or infrequent events. Finally, staff will also discuss our preliminary analysis of PM_{2.5} data and recommended area designations for the national PM_{2.5} standards.

Area Designation Criteria

State law, in Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 39607(e), requires ARB to establish and periodically review area designation criteria. The designation criteria provide the basis for designating areas as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for those pollutants with State standards. The ARB initially adopted designation criteria in June 1989, and has amended the criteria several times since that date. The area designation criteria are found in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 17, sections 70300 through 70306, and Appendices 1 through 4, thereof.

The staff is proposing to add PM_{2.5} to the list of pollutants that are designated by air basin. The designation criteria apply to all pollutants for which State standards are established in CCR, title 17, section 70200. When ARB adopted the State PM_{2.5} standard, it was included in section 70200. Because the designation criteria apply to all pollutants with standards specified in CCR, title 17, section 70200, PM_{2.5} is already included among the pollutants for which the ARB makes area designations. However, the designation criteria do not specify any default geographic area for the PM_{2.5} designations. Therefore, we are proposing to add PM_{2.5} to the list of pollutants that are designated by air basin. We will also discuss several other proposed changes to the designation criteria that are intended for clarification purposes and would not change the way in which ARB currently determines area designations. A summary of the proposed changes is included as Attachment 3.

If you have any questions about the public workshop or proposed amendments, please contact Ms. Marcella Nystrom at (916) 323-8543 or mnystrom@arb.ca.gov or Ms. Gayle Sweigert, at (916) 322-6923 or gsweiger@arb.ca.gov.

For further information, visit our web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/desig.htm>. Additional information will be posted on the web site one week prior to the workshop and will be updated periodically, thereafter. You may sign-up to receive e-mail notifications when information related to the State area designations is posted on ARB's web site by subscribing to our listserve at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/desig/desig.htm>.

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Para información, por favor comuníquese con Marivel De La Torre en la Oficina de Información Pública del Consejo de Recursos Atmosféricos al (916) 322-2990.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Fletcher, Chief
Planning and Technical Support Division

Attachments (3)

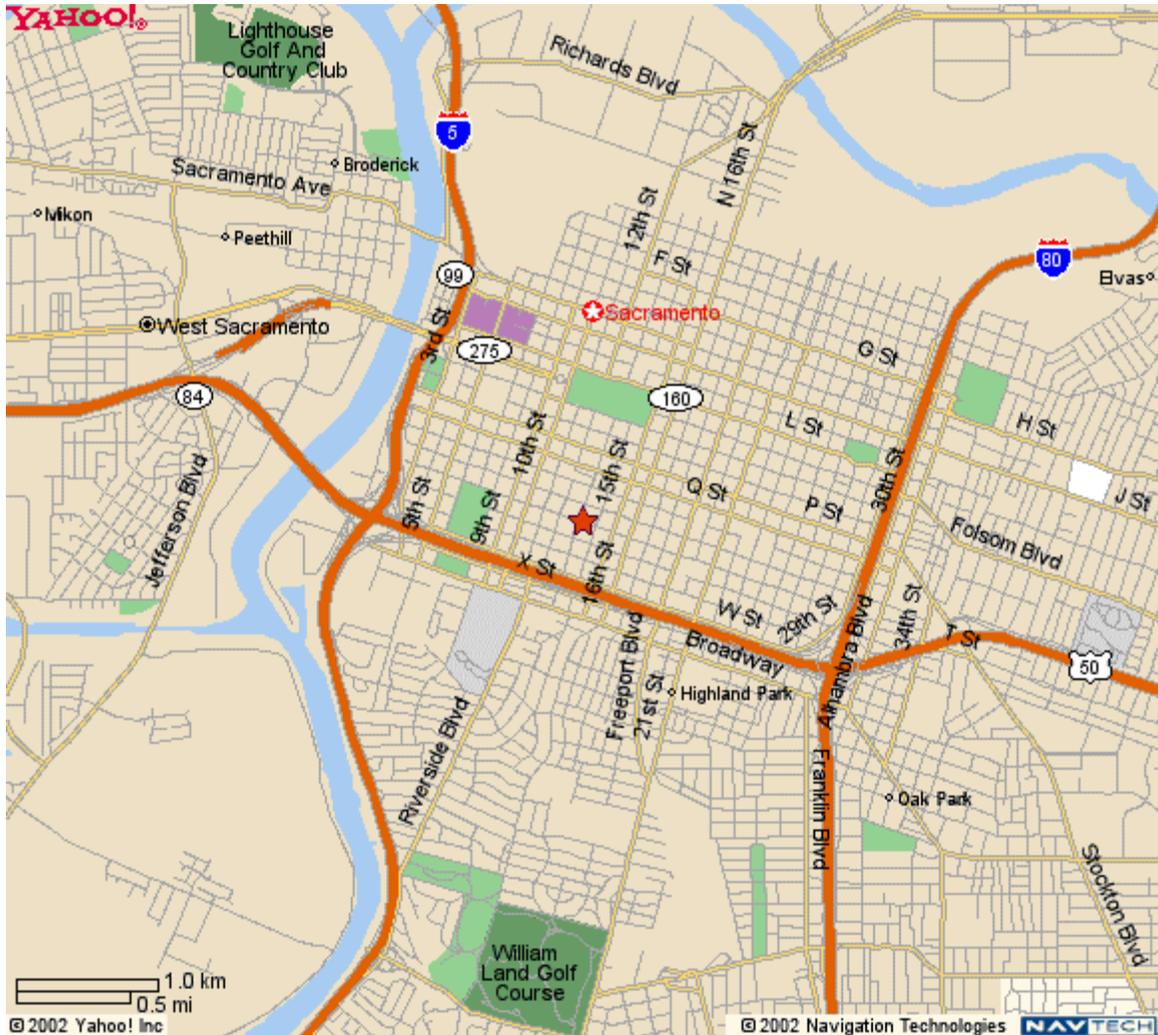
cc: Marcella Nystrom
Staff Air Pollution Specialist
Air Quality Analysis Section
Planning and Technical Support Division

Ms. Gayle Sweigert, Manager
Air Quality Analysis Section
Planning and Technical Support Division

ATTACHMENT 1

LOCATION OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

ARB Monitoring and Laboratory Division
1927 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95812



The Monitoring and Laboratory Division of the Air Resources Board is located at 13th and T Streets. Please enter the building on the east side (13th Street entrance). The conference room is located to the right of the entrance. Street parking is limited at this facility. There is a public parking structure located several blocks away at 15th and R Streets

ATTACHMENT 2

**2003 PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS
FOR STATE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS***

PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR POLLUTANTS OTHER THAN PM_{2.5}			
<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>Area / Air Basin</i>	<i>Current Designation</i>	<i>Proposed Designation</i>
Ozone	San Luis Obispo County (South Central Coast AB)	NA-T	A
	Sonoma County (North Coast AB)	NA-T	A
	Butte County (Sacramento Valley AB)	NA-T	N
	North Central Coast Air Basin	NA-T	N
	Colusa County APCD (Sacramento Valley AB)	N	NA-T
	Santa Barbara County APCD (South Central Coast AB)	N	NA-T
CO	Los Angeles County (South Coast AB)	N	NA-T
Sulfates	San Bernardino County Portion of Searles Valley Planning Area (Mojave Desert AB)	N	A

PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR PM_{2.5}		
<i>Air Basin</i>	<i>Area Included</i>	<i>Proposed Designation</i>
Mojave Desert	Central San Bernardino County (portion of San Bernardino County within the federal Modified AQMA for ozone)	N
Mountain Counties	Plumas County	N
Sacramento Valley	Butte, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba counties; portion of Placer County within air basin	N
Salton Sea	Imperial County	N
San Diego	Entire air basin	N
San Francisco Bay Area	Entire air basin	N
San Joaquin Valley	Entire air basin	N
South Central Coast	Ventura County (including Anacapa and San Nicolas islands)	N
South Coast Air Basin	Entire air basin (including San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands)	N

PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR PM_{2.5} (continued)

Lake County	Entire air basin	A
Great Basin Valleys	Entire Air Basin	U
Lake Tahoe	Entire Air Basin	U
Mojave Desert (remainder)	Portion of Kern County, portion of Los Angeles County, and portion of Riverside County within air basin	U
Mountain Counties (remainder)	Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Nevada, Sierra, and Tuolumne counties; portion of El Dorado County and portion of Placer County within air basin	U
North Central Coast	Entire air basin	U
North Coast	Entire air basin	U
Northeast Plateau	Entire air basin	U
Sacramento Valley (remainder)	Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Tehama, and Yolo counties; portion of Solano County within air basin	U
Salton Sea (remainder)	Portion of Riverside County within air basin	U
South Central Coast (remainder)	San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties (including San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa islands)	U

*** Designation Categories:**

- A = Attainment; indicates no *violations* of the State standard in the area during the previous three years.
- N = Nonattainment; indicates at least one *violation* of the State standard in the area during the previous three years.
- NA-T = Nonattainment-transitional; a subcategory of nonattainment. For ozone, indicates no more than three *exceedances* of the State standard at each site in the district during the previous calendar year. Ozone nonattainment-transitional changes occur by *operation of law*. For other pollutants, nonattainment-transitional indicates no more than two *violations* of the State standard at each site in the area during the previous calendar year, and the area is expected to reach attainment within the next three years.
- U = Unclassified; indicates data are not sufficient for determining attainment or nonattainment.

An *exceedance* is any pollutant concentration that is above the level of the State standard. Not all exceedances are violations. In contrast, a *violation* is an exceedance that cannot be excluded from the area designation process as affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event.

ATTACHMENT 3

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AREA DESIGNATION CRITERIA

The ARB staff is proposing changes to several sections of the area designation criteria, as described below. These changes are for clarification purposes and would not change the way in which the Air Resources Board currently determines the area designations for State standards.

Section 70302(a): The designation criteria apply to all pollutants for which State standards are established in CCR, title 17, section 70200. During June 2002, the ARB adopted a State standard for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and included it in section 70200. The new standard became effective July 5, 2003. Because the designation criteria apply to all pollutants with standards specified in CCR, title 17, section 70200, PM_{2.5} is already included among the pollutants for which the ARB makes area designations. However, the designation criteria do not specify any default geographic area for the PM_{2.5} designations. The ARB staff proposes adding PM_{2.5} to the list of pollutants in section 70302(a) of the designation criteria that are designated by air basin as the default area.

Section 70303.5(a)(1): The staff proposes adding language to clarify that the area designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone will be an *entire district* or the *entire portion of a district* within an air basin.

Appendix 1: This appendix contains the criteria used for determining data representativeness. Use of the table associated with Appendix 1 has been a source of confusion over the years. The ARB staff proposes adding descriptive language and examples to clarify the existing process for determining data representativeness found in Appendix 1 to the designation criteria.

Other Changes: The ARB staff proposes adding the word *state* in a number of places throughout the designation criteria to clarify that the word standard, as used in the designation criteria, refers to the State standard (sections 70302, 70303, 70303.1, and 70304 and Appendix 2). In addition, the staff proposes adding the words *to this article* in two places to clarify that the appendices referenced are appendices to the designation criteria (sections 70303.1 and 70303.5). Finally, to make the order more logical, the staff proposes renumbering two of the existing appendices. References to these appendices will also be changed (sections 70303, 70303.1, 70303.5, and 70304 and Appendix 1, Appendix 2, and Appendix 3).