



Air Resources Board



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 3, 2009

Subject: Public Workshop to Discuss Proposed Amendments to the Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards

The staff of the California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workshop about the proposed regulatory language changes and area designations for State ambient air quality standards (State standards).

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

DATE: December 17, 2009
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: California Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters
1001 "I" Street
Conference Room 230, Second Floor
Sacramento, California 95814
OR CALL-IN: (866) 820-5740 [passcode 2065838]

Additional information about the meeting location and parking is provided on our web site at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/maps/sactomap.htm>.

Workshop Information and Background

To protect public health, the Board has adopted health-based air quality standards. These State standards define the maximum amount of an air pollutant that can be present in ambient (outdoor) air. State law requires 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. ARB makes area designations for ten pollutants: ozone, inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles.

During the annual review, ARB determines whether changes to the existing area designations are warranted, based on an evaluation of recent air quality data. This year's area designations are based on data collected during 2006 through 2008. Staff's proposed area designation changes are summarized in the attached table. These include changes in area designations for ozone, PM_{2.5}, nitrogen dioxide, and lead. The Board will consider proposed changes to the area designations at a public hearing currently scheduled for March 2010.

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

This will be the first year that State designations will consider the newly revised State nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) standard. In 2007, ARB strengthened the 1-hour NO₂ standard and also established a new annual-average standard. Under State law, designations are made by pollutant rather than averaging time. Therefore, similar to PM₁₀ and ozone, there will be only one designation for NO₂, based on both the relevant standards.

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, ARB staff will discuss potential changes to the regulatory language regarding data screening, completeness, and validity, as well as public hearing requirements.

For further information, visit our web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/desig.htm>. 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.htm>.

Special Accommodations and Language Assistance

If you have a disability-related accommodation need, please go to the website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/ada/ada.htm> for assistance; contact our Disability Coordinator by voice at (916) 323-4916; or access the California Relay Service at 711.

If you need this document in an alternate format or language, please contact Ms. Theresa Najita at (916) 322-7297 or tnajita@arb.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled event/meeting.

If you have any questions about the public workshop or proposed amendments, please contact Ms. Theresa Najita at (916) 322-7297 or tnajita@arb.ca.gov or Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or szulawni@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Linda C. Murchison, Chief
Planning and Technical Support Division

Attachment

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