



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Agency Secretary

# Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

February 24, 2006

Mr. Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator  
Region 9  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Nastri:

The Air Resources Board (ARB) hereby submits to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval the *Sacramento Regional Nonattainment Area 8-Hour Ozone Rate-Of-Progress Plan (Early Progress Plan)* as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). The Early Progress Plan is needed to establish new transportation conformity budgets for the Sacramento region. The full attainment demonstration SIP will be developed over the next year to meet the June 2007 deadline. As noted in our December 27, 2005 letter requesting parallel processing for this plan, we ask that U.S. EPA make an expeditious finding on the adequacy of the motor vehicle emission budgets that are needed to support a new transportation conformity determination for the Sacramento region.

## Background

The Sacramento region 8-hour ozone nonattainment area, classified as serious, covers all or part of five local air districts: El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (El Dorado County District), Feather River Air Quality Management District (Feather River District), Placer County Air Pollution Control District (Placer County District), Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sacramento District), and Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (Yolo-Solano District). Each of these air agencies has approved the Early Progress Plan and associated environmental impact report (EIR).

Each of the local air districts considered and approved the Early Progress Plan and EIR at separate hearings between January 26 and February 9. The Early Progress Plan was transmitted to ARB by the Sacramento District on February 9, 2006 for approval and submittal to U.S. EPA.

*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

### Plan Elements

The most significant elements in the Early Progress Plan are as follows:

1. **Progress Demonstration.** The Early Progress Plan documents that, between 2002 and 2008, the Sacramento region nonattainment area will achieve an 18 percent reduction in ozone precursor emissions from adopted control measures. The Early Progress Plan uses both nitrogen oxide (NOx) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emission reductions to demonstrate compliance with the 18 percent emissions reduction requirement.
2. **Amended 1994 ROP Plan.** U.S. EPA guidance requires that an area have an approved 15 percent VOC rate of progress (ROP) plan for 1990-1996 before an area can use NOx emission reductions in addition to VOC emission reductions for the 2002-2008 ROP. The Early Progress Plan contains an amendment to the Sacramento region's 1994 15 percent VOC ROP plan prepared for the 1-hour ozone standard. The amendment documents that, between 1990 and 1996, the Sacramento region nonattainment area achieved a 15 percent reduction of VOC emissions.
3. **Transportation Conformity Budgets.** The Early Progress Plan contains revised transportation conformity emission budgets for 2008 that reflect adopted vehicle emission control regulations not included in the existing (1994) SIP and budgets. It is important that metropolitan planning organizations in California be able to use motor vehicle emissions budgets as soon as U.S. EPA finds them adequate. Accordingly, we request that U.S. EPA structure its approval of the Early Progress Plan budgets to allow for their replacement when U.S. EPA finds the subsequent budgets adequate. This is in keeping with past practice and is consistent with U.S. EPA rules as described in 93.118(e)(1) of the conformity regulation.

### Contents

This package consists of five copies of the following:

1. February 9, 2006 letter from Mr. Larry Greene, Sacramento District Air Pollution Control Officer, transmitting the following materials to ARB:
  - A. *Sacramento Regional Nonattainment Area 8-Hour Ozone Rate-of-Progress Plan*;
  - B. Resolutions from the El Dorado County, Feather River, Placer County, Sacramento, and Yolo-Solano District Boards adopting the Early Progress Plan;
  - C. Proofs of publication and Notice of Availability of the draft Early Progress Plan;

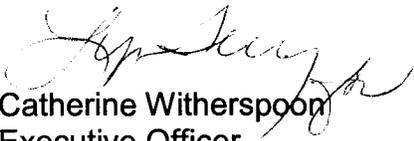
Mr. Wayne Nastri  
February 24, 2006  
Page 3

- D. Environmental Impact Report; and
  - E. Compilation of public comments on the Early Progress Plan and districts' responses.
2. Executive Order G-125-335 of the California Air Resources Board, approving the *Sacramento Regional Nonattainment Area 8-Hour Ozone Rate-of-Progress Plan*.
  3. SIP Completeness Checklist for the Early Progress Plan.

This submittal letter, ARB Executive Order, detailed information about the data and methodologies used to develop the motor vehicle emission budgets, and links to the Early Progress Plan are available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/sacrop05/sacrop05.htm>.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Mr. Kurt Karperos, Chief, Air Quality and Transportation Planning Branch, at (916) 322-0285.

Sincerely,



Catherine Witherspoon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

Mr. Wayne Nastri  
February 24, 2006  
Page 4

cc: (Without Enclosures)

Mr. Tom Christofk  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
Placer County Air Pollution  
Control District  
11464 B Avenue  
Auburn, California 95603

Mr. Mat Ehrhardt  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
Yolo-Solano Air Quality  
Management District  
1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103  
Davis, California 95616

Mr. Larry Greene  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality  
Management District  
777 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Deborah Jordan, Director  
Air Division, Region 9  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. Mike McKeever  
Executive Director  
Sacramento Area Council  
of Governments  
1415 L Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Continued next page.

Mr. Wayne Natri  
February 24, 2006  
Page 5

cc: (continued)

Ms. Marcella McTaggart  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
El Dorado County Air Quality  
Management District  
2850 Fairlane Court, Building C  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. David A. Valler, Jr.  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
Feather River Air Quality  
Management District  
938 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marysville, California 95901

Ms. Lynn Terry  
Air Resources Board

Mr. Kurt Karperos  
Air Resources Board