

California Environmental Protection Agency



Air Resources Board



**AREA
DESIGNATIONS
AND MAPS**

2006

September 2006

2006

Area Designations and Maps

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

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California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Planning and Technical Support Division
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This document has been reviewed and approved by the staff of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board. Approval does not signify that the contents necessarily reflect the views and policies of the California Air Resources Board.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) has established health-based State ambient air quality standards (State standards) to identify outdoor pollutant levels considered safe for the public—including those individuals most sensitive to the effects of air pollution, such as children and the elderly. After State standards are established, State law requires ARB to designate each area as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified for each State standard. The area designations, which are based on the most recent available data, indicate the healthfulness of the air quality throughout the State.

As required by State law, ARB established designation criteria to ensure that the area designations for State standards are made in a consistent manner (refer to Attachment A for the full text of the designation criteria). Based on these criteria and as required by State law, the Board originally adopted the area designation regulations in 1989. Under State law, the Board must review the area designations each year and make changes as necessary based on the most recent data. Currently, the Board makes area designations for the ten pollutants with State standards listed in title 17, California Code of Regulations, section 70200: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM10), fine suspended particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles.

Proposed Changes to the Area Designation Regulations

Based on the 2003 through 2005 air quality data, ARB staff is proposing changes to the current area designation regulations for carbon monoxide, PM10, and PM2.5 for several areas of California. In addition, ARB staff is proposing a number of changes for ozone, based primarily on the new 8-hour State ozone standard which the Board adopted in April 2005 and which became effective in May 2006. The proposed changes are summarized in Table ES-1.

Under State law, the area designation changes for carbon monoxide, PM10, PM2.5, and seven of the changes for ozone require formal action by the Board. In contrast, the eight ozone designation changes from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment occur by operation of law under the provisions of Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 40925.5. However, ARB staff is proposing the Board confirm these changes in the area designation regulations. The full text of these proposed regulatory changes can be found in Attachment B.

Based on the 8-hour State ozone standard, a number of areas will be changing to a nonattainment designation. As a result, these areas will need to develop attainment plans, pursuant to State law requirements (H&SC section 40911). Air Pollution Control and Air Quality Management Districts (districts) with areas changing from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment should already have a plan in place, but may need to revise the plan to ensure expeditious attainment of both the State 1-hour and 8-hour standards. In contrast, districts with areas changing from attainment or unclassified to nonattainment may not have a plan currently in place, or may be entering

the planning process for the first time. In these cases, ARB staff will work with the districts to develop their plans and ensure they are consistent with the requirements of State law. Additional information on the implications of the area designations with respect to the planning process for State ambient air quality standards can be found in Chapter I.D.

Other Information in this Staff Report

As required by State law, this staff report also includes maps and tables identifying areas with at least one violation of a State standard or national ambient air quality standard (national standard). The maps and tables provided in Attachment C fulfill the statutory requirement in H&SC section 40718 and reflect the proposed area designations for State standards that are summarized in this staff report. The maps and tables also reflect the current area designations for national standards.

TABLE ES-1
PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE STANDARDS

2006 PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATION CHANGES			
<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>Air Basin/ County</i>	<i>Current Designation</i>	<i>Proposed 2006 Designation</i>
Ozone	Great Basin Valleys Air Basin / Inyo County	U	N
	Lake Tahoe Air Basin	A	U
	North Central Coast Air Basin	NA-T**	N
	North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) / Sonoma County (NCAB portion)	A	N
	Northeast Plateau Air Basin		
	Lassen County	A	U
	Modoc County	A	U
	Siskiyou County	A	N
	Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB)		
	Butte County	NA-T**	N
	Shasta County	NA-T**	N
	Solano County (SVAB portion)	NA-T**	N
	Sutter County	NA-T**	N
	Tehama County	NA-T**	N
	Yolo County	NA-T**	N
	Yuba County	NA-T**	N
	South Central Coast Air Basin / San Luis Obispo County	A	N
CO	Salton Sea Air Basin / Imperial County	N / U	A
PM10	North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) / Sonoma County (NCAB portion)	N	A
PM2.5	South Central Coast Air Basin / San Luis Obispo County	U	A

Designation Categories:

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

** The change in ozone designation from nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional occurs by operation of law under Health and Safety Code section 40925.5. Similarly, the change from nonattainment-transitional back to nonattainment also occurs by operation of law.

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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 designations, the implications of being designated for the various pollutants, and the public process used in developing the proposed amendments to the area designation regulations. The proposed changes to the area designations are described in Chapter III.

B. STATE AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

To protect public health, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) has adopted health-based ambient (outdoor) air quality standards. These standards define the maximum amount of an air pollutant that can be present in ambient air without harm to the public's health. Ambient air quality standards are established to protect even sensitive individuals in our communities. California law requires ARB to set State ambient air quality standards (State standards) in consideration of public health, safety, and welfare. The Board has adopted State standards for ten pollutants: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM10), fine suspended particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide (CO), 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 set national ambient air quality standards (national standards) for the nation. It also permits states to adopt additional or more health-protective standards. California's State standards for most pollutants are more protective of public health than national standards. In addition, California has established State standards for other pollutants that are not covered by national standards (for example, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles).

An ambient air quality standard is generally specified as a concentration averaged over a specific time period, such as one hour, eight hours, 24 hours, or one year. The different averaging times and concentrations are meant to protect against different exposure effects. Some ambient air quality standards are expressed as a concentration that is not to be exceeded. Others are expressed as a concentration that is not to be equaled or exceeded.

The national standards are further categorized as primary standards and secondary standards. The national primary standards are meant to protect public health. The national secondary standards are meant to protect the public welfare from any known or

anticipated adverse effects of the pollutant. The national standard area designation maps and tables in Attachment C reflect the national primary standards. Attachment C also contains a table that lists the applicable pollutant levels, averaging times, and analytical measurement methods for both the State standards and the national standards.

The U.S. EPA promulgated new national ozone and PM2.5 standards in July 1997. In April 2004, the U.S. EPA made area designations for the new national 8-hour ozone standard. Therefore, maps and tables for the 8-hour standard are included in Attachment C. The national 1-hour ozone standard was revoked effective June 15, 2005. Maps and tables for the national 1-hour standard are, therefore, not included in this report.

U.S. EPA has also issued area designations for the national PM2.5 standards which became effective in April 2005. A map and table depicting these designations are included in Attachment C. Two areas of California are nonattainment for the national PM2.5 standard: the South Coast Air Basin and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

C. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 39607(e) requires the Board to establish criteria for designating areas as attainment or nonattainment for the State standards and to periodically review these criteria to ensure their continued relevance. The criteria describe the procedures that the Board must use in determining area designations for State standards and are summarized in Chapter II. The Board originally adopted the required designation criteria in June 1989 and subsequently amended them in June 1990, May 1992, December 1992, November 1993, November 1995, September 1998, and most recently, in January 2004.

H&SC section 39608 requires the Board to use the designation criteria in designating areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State standards. In addition, HS&C section 40925.5 provides a mechanism for redesignating a nonattainment district as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. Finally, H&SC section 39608 requires the Board to conduct an annual review of the area designations and update them as new information becomes available. As warranted, the Board makes changes to the existing area designations, as well as making area designations for any new or revised State standards.

The area designations are made on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis, for all pollutants listed in the California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 70200. These pollutants are: ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM10), fine suspended particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles. In April 2005, the Board reaffirmed the existing 1-hour State ozone standard and adopted a new State 8-hour ozone standard. The 8-hour standard of 0.070 parts per million (ppm) became effective on May 17, 2006.

This year's review of the State area designations is the first to consider the State 8-hour ozone standard. Furthermore, because the 8-hour standard is more health-protective than the 1-hour standard, we are recommending a change in area designation for a number of areas, as described in Chapter III.

In addition to the designation criteria and area designation requirements, H&SC section 40718 requires the Board to publish maps showing the areas with one or more measured violations of any State standard or national standard. The maps and summary tables provided in Attachment C fulfill this requirement. The maps and tables for the State standards reflect the changes to the area designations as described in Chapter III. The maps and tables for the national standards reflect the current federal area designations, as promulgated by the U.S. EPA. For additional information about the area designations for national standards, visit the U.S. EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/airprog/oar/oaqps/greenbk>

D. IMPLICATIONS OF THE STATE AREA DESIGNATIONS

The State designation criteria specify four designation categories: nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, attainment, and unclassified. A nonattainment designation indicates one or more violations of the State standard have occurred. A nonattainment-transitional designation is a subcategory of nonattainment that indicates improving air quality, with only occasional violations or exceedances of the State standard. In contrast, an attainment designation indicates no violation of the State standard. Finally, an unclassified designation indicates either no or an incomplete set of air quality data. Although the area designations themselves are simply labels indicating the healthfulness of air quality and do not contain any requirements for action, there may be other legal requirements, based on an area's designation status, as described below.

1. Areas Designated as Nonattainment

An air pollution control district or air quality management district (district) that includes an area designated as nonattainment for a particular pollutant, experiences several consequences under the law. First, State law requires nonattainment districts to develop plans for attaining the State standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The nonattainment districts must submit these attainment plans to the Board for approval (H&SC section 40911). Ozone nonattainment districts that are impacted by transport from upwind areas (in other words, ozone violations are caused by emissions transported from upwind areas located outside the district) are required to develop ozone attainment plans to mitigate those violations that occur in the absence of transport (in other words, ozone violations that are caused by locally generated emissions; H&SC sections 39610(b) and 40912). Violations caused by a combination of transported and locally generated emissions must be mitigated by both the upwind and downwind areas. Ozone violations caused by overwhelming transport must be mitigated by the responsible upwind district(s).

In addition to these requirements for nonattainment districts, on October 8, 2003, Senate Bill 656 (Sher) was signed by the Governor. This law requires ARB to develop and adopt (by January 1, 2005) a list of the most readily available, feasible, and cost-effective control measures to reduce PM10, PM2.5, and their precursor emissions to make progress toward attaining the State and national PM2.5 and PM10 standards. The list of measures was developed in consultation with the districts, and approved by ARB in November 2004. These control measures were based on rules, regulations, and programs in effect in California as of January 1, 2004. The districts were required to adopt implementation schedules for the most cost-effective subset of measures appropriate to the nature and severity of the PM problem in each area by July 31, 2005.

Finally, a district with an area designated as nonattainment for any of the remaining pollutants is not subject to any specific statutory planning requirements. However, such districts must adopt and enforce rules and regulations to expeditiously attain the State standards for these pollutants (H&SC sections 40001 and 40913). Furthermore, a nonattainment district has the option of developing and implementing an attainment plan or adopting regulations to control the emissions that contribute to these pollutants (H&SC section 40926).

The second consequence of a nonattainment designation is that the Board collects fees from large, nonvehicular sources located in the nonattainment area (H&SC section 39612; CCR, title 17, sections 90800.8 through 90806). District sources permitted to emit 250 tons per year or more of any nonattainment pollutant or its precursors are subject to these fees. The fees are used to help defray the costs of State programs related to nonvehicular sources.

With certain exceptions, nonattainment districts are authorized to levy a fee of up to \$6.00 on motor vehicles registered in the district for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act and incentive programs to reduce emissions (H&SC sections 44223 and 44225).

2. Areas Designated as Nonattainment-Transitional

Nonattainment-transitional is a subcategory of the nonattainment designation. Therefore, a district with a nonattainment area that is redesignated as nonattainment-transitional is still subject to the same requirements as described in the preceding section. However, in contrast to the nonattainment designation, a nonattainment-transitional designation may signal a change in how these requirements are implemented. For example, a district that currently is implementing an approved attainment plan may determine that some of the additional control measures contained in the attainment plan are not needed to reach attainment by the earliest practicable date. As a result, the nonattainment-transitional designation provides the district with a signal that it may be appropriate to review, and perhaps modify, its approved attainment plan. However, district actions in response to a nonattainment-transitional designation

must be consistent with State and federal regulations and statutes.

H&SC section 40925.5 specifically allows a district with an area designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone to shift some stationary source control measures from the rulemaking calendar to the contingency category if the district finds these control measures are no longer necessary to accomplish expeditious attainment of the State ozone standard. These actions do not apply to control measures required to mitigate the effects of pollutant transport. The Board may disapprove any action of the district within 90 days if the Board finds that the action will delay expeditious attainment of the State ozone standard.

3. Areas Designated as Attainment or Unclassified

State law does not impose any specific planning requirements upon districts with areas designated as attainment or unclassified. However, State law does require that the State standards not only be attained but also, maintained. State law requires the districts and the Board 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).

E. PUBLIC PROCESS

The H&SC requires the Board to adopt criteria for designating areas with respect to the State standards. Furthermore, both the H&SC (section 39608) and the designation criteria (CCR, title 17, section 70306) require the Board to review the area designations annually and to redesignate areas as new information becomes available. 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 2003 through 2005 air quality data, staff noted potential changes to the existing area designations for carbon monoxide, PM10, and PM2.5, as well as changes for ozone resulting from the Board's adoption of a new State 8-hour ozone standard. After these preliminary reviews, staff contacted the affected districts to discuss the results of the review. These discussions included the basis for the designation change, additional information relevant to the designation change, and an opportunity for district input. Furthermore, staff encouraged districts to submit any other information they would like considered. Staff also maintained a web-based subscriber notification process or listserve. For those who subscribe, the listserve provides automatic electronic updates related to area designation issues.

On July 10, 2006, staff announced a public workshop scheduled for July 24, 2006. Staff notified subscribers to our listserve about the workshop, as well as subscribers to the Environmental Justice and State Implementation Plan (SIP) listserves. The workshop announcement included a discussion of the staff's proposed amendments to the area

designations based on the most recent three complete calendar years of air quality data: 2003 through 2005. Approximately 20 people attended the July 24, 2006, workshop.

The proposed amendments described in this staff report incorporate comments received from the public. The Board is scheduled to consider these amendments at a public hearing in November 2006.

CHAPTER II

AREA DESIGNATION CRITERIA

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a summary of the existing designation criteria. The following sections describe the general provisions of the designation criteria, the area designation categories, the data requirements, the size of the designated areas, and the requirements for identifying highly irregular or infrequent events. The full text of the designation criteria is included as Attachment A.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE DESIGNATION CRITERIA

The designation criteria describe the procedures the Board 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 area designation category;
- The data the Board will use for making the area designations;
- How the Board will determine the size of a designated area; and
- The requirement for an annual review of the area designations by the Board's Executive Officer.

C. DESIGNATION CATEGORIES

In determining which designation category is appropriate for an area, 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 the exceedances. A violation is any exceedance (concentration above the level of the State standard) that is not affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event, and therefore, cannot be excluded from the area designation process (refer to discussion in Section F, below).

The designation criteria specify four designation categories: nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, attainment, and unclassified. The Board will designate an area as *nonattainment* for a pollutant if air quality data show that a State standard for the pollutant was violated at least once during the previous three calendar years. As explained above, exceedances that are affected by highly irregular or infrequent events are not considered violations of a State standard and are not used as a basis for designating an area as nonattainment.

The *nonattainment-transitional* designation is a subcategory of nonattainment. The Board will designate an area as nonattainment-transitional for a pollutant other than ozone if air quality data show that a State standard for that pollutant was violated two or fewer times at each of the sites in the area during the most recent calendar year. In addition, an evaluation of recent air quality trends and meteorological and emissions data must show that air quality in the area either has stabilized or has improved. Finally, each site in the area must be expected to reach attainment for the pollutant within three years.

In contrast to the nonattainment-transitional requirements for other pollutants, the ozone nonattainment-transitional requirements are specified in State law (H&SC section 40925.5). The H&SC specifies that the ozone nonattainment-transitional designation be made by district area (rather than air basin, county, or other geographic area) and be based on exceedances, not violations. Because ozone nonattainment-transitional is based on exceedances, all measurements above the level of the State ozone standard are considered and none are excluded. Furthermore, the H&SC specifies that only nonattainment districts may be designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone.

Specifically, H&SC section 40925.5 specifies that a nonattainment district (or the portion of a district within an air basin) is designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone if air quality data show three or fewer exceedances of the State standard at each site within the district (or portion of the district) during the most recent calendar year. Because the ozone nonattainment-transitional designation is based on a single year of data, it can be unstable due to year-to-year changes in meteorology. To provide more stability, the designation criteria allow for a review of data collected during the current calendar year. If data for the current year show more than three exceedances at any monitoring location in the area, thereby ensuring the district would not qualify as nonattainment-transitional during the next annual review, the district remains designated as nonattainment in the area designation regulations. This approach prevents districts from going in and out of nonattainment-transitional from one year to the next.

Finally, unlike the nonattainment-transitional designation for other pollutants, the redesignation of an ozone nonattainment district area as nonattainment-transitional occurs by operation of law. Although the redesignation occurs by operation of law, the Board confirms the change based on the guidelines set forth in the designation criteria. The Board also makes sure the area designation regulations are amended to reflect the ozone nonattainment-transitional designation.

In contrast to nonattainment and nonattainment-transitional, the Board will designate an area as *attainment* for a pollutant if data show the State standard for that pollutant was not violated during the previous three calendar years. As described earlier, exceedances affected by highly irregular or infrequent events are not considered violations, and therefore, are not considered in designating areas as attainment. As a result, an area can have measured concentrations that are higher than the level of the

State standard and still be designated as attainment. Finally, the Board will designate an area as *unclassified* for a pollutant if the available data do not support a designation of nonattainment or attainment.

D. DATA REQUIREMENTS

To the extent possible, the Board makes area designations for each pollutant based on the most recent ambient air quality data. The air quality data must be *data for record*, which are those air quality data that satisfy specific siting and quality assurance procedures established by the U.S. EPA and adopted by the Board. Generally, data for record are those data collected by or under the direction of the Board or the 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 State standard. The rounding convention is summarized in Attachment D.

When adequate and recent air quality data are not available, the Board 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 may vary depending on the nature of the pollutant, the location of contributing emission sources, meteorology, and topographic features. Normally, an air basin is the area designated for pollutants with a regional impact: ozone, PM10, PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide, sulfates, and visibility reducing particles. A county (or the portion of a county located within an air basin) is normally the area designated for pollutants with a more localized impact: carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and hydrogen sulfide. In both cases, however, the Board may designate a smaller area if the Board finds that the smaller area has distinctly different air quality. This finding is based on a review of the air quality data, meteorology, topography, and the distribution of population and emissions. In designating a smaller area as nonattainment, the sources with emissions that contribute to a violation must be included within the designated area. In defining a smaller designation area, the Board uses political boundary lines whenever possible.

F. HIGHLY IRREGULAR OR INFREQUENT EVENTS

While area designations for State standards are based on ambient air quality data, the designation criteria provide for excluding certain high values. In particular, the designation 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 Attachment A) defines three types of highly irregular or infrequent events:

- Extreme concentration events;
- Exceptional events; and
- Unusual concentration events.

An *extreme concentration event* is identified by a statistical procedure that calculates the concentration that is not expected to be exceeded more than once per year, on average. This value is also referred to as the Expected Peak Day Concentration or EPDC. Adverse meteorology is one potential cause of an extreme concentration event. However, a specific, identifiable cause is not necessary for an exceedance to be identified as an extreme concentration.

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 the air quality measurements from the same site, which are also rounded to the precision of the State standard. Air quality measurements that exceed the State standard, and that are higher than the rounded EPDC value, are excluded from the area designation process. These exceedances are not considered violations of the State standard. However, air quality measurements that exceed the State standard and are equal to or lower than the rounded EPDC value are not excluded from the area designation process. These values are considered violations of the State standard.

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 that is beyond reasonable regulatory control. An exceptional event may be caused by an act of nature (for example, a forest fire or a severe windstorm) or it may be of human origin (for example, a chemical spill or industrial accident).

Finally, an *unusual concentration event* is an unexpected or atypical exceedance of a State standard that cannot be identified as an extreme concentration event or an exceptional event. Unusual concentration events are identified only for areas already designated as attainment or unclassified at the time of the exceedance. In identifying

such events, the Executive Officer must make specific findings based on relevant information. Generally, unusual concentration events are identified in areas with limited air quality data, and therefore, uncertainty as to what level of concentrations are expected to occur.

The unusual concentration event allows a wait-and-see approach in making nonattainment designations. However, there is a time limit. An area may retain its attainment or unclassified designation based on the exclusion of one or more exceedances affected by an unusual concentration event 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 event or an exceptional event. The idea behind this time limit is that within three years, the air quality data record should be complete enough to determine whether the area is attainment or nonattainment.

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CHAPTER III

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AREA DESIGNATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the area designation process and the proposed changes to the area designation regulations. As required by H&SC section 39608, the Board updates the area designations each year, based on a review of data from the most recent three calendar years. This year's review is based on air quality data collected during the calendar years 2003 through 2005. The Board's update of the area designations includes changes warranted to existing area designations. These proposed changes amend the existing CCR, title 17, sections 60201, 60202, 60205, and 60210. Once adopted by the Board, the proposed amendments must be approved by the Office of Administrative Law before they become effective, with the exception of those that occur by operation of law.

Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, the staff proposes changes to the area designations for four pollutants, as summarized below. Changes in area designation status are appropriate for ozone, CO, PM10, and PM2.5. No changes are proposed for the remaining six pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles.

- *Proposed Changes to Ozone Area Designations (section 60201):*
 - *Redesignate Inyo County in the Great Basin Valleys Air Basin as Nonattainment.*
 - *Redesignate the Lake Tahoe Air Basin as Unclassified.*
 - *Confirm the redesignation of the North Central Coast Air Basin as Nonattainment that occurred by operation of law.*
 - *Redesignate the North Coast Air Basin portion of Sonoma County as Nonattainment.*
 - *Redesignate Siskiyou County in the Northeast Plateau Air Basin as Nonattainment.*
 - *Redesignate Lassen and Modoc Counties in the Northeast Plateau Air Basin as Unclassified.*
 - *Confirm the redesignation of seven counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (Butte, Shasta, Solano (SVAB portion), Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba) as Nonattainment that occurred by operation of law.*
 - *Redesignate San Luis Obispo County in the South Central Coast Air Basin as Nonattainment.*

- *Proposed Changes to Carbon Monoxide Area Designations (section 60202):*
 - *Redesignate Imperial County in the Salton Sea Air Basin as Attainment.*

- *Proposed Changes to PM10 Area Designations (section 60205):*
 - *Redesignate the North Coast Air Basin portion of Sonoma County as Attainment.*

- *Proposed Changes to PM2.5 Area Designations (section 60210):*
 - *Redesignate San Luis Obispo County in the South Central Coast Air Basin as Attainment.*

B. DESIGNATION PROCESS

The area designations are based on air quality data for record as defined in section 70301 of the designation criteria (for reference, the full text of the designation criteria is contained in Attachment A). Data for record must meet established siting and quality assurance procedures. Generally, data for record are those data collected by the Board or the districts. However, data from other sources may also be considered, as long as they satisfy the established procedures.

The process used to designate an area with respect to a State standard is generally the same for each of the ten pollutants:

- 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 in the area.
- Determine the designation value for the area.
- Determine the appropriate area designation category.

Determining the designation value is the most critical part of the designation process because the designation value determines, in large part, the area designation. More detail about the designation value and how it is determined, is given 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 that remains after excluding measurements identified as affected by highly irregular or infrequent events.

Under Appendix 2 to the designation criteria, there are three types of highly irregular or infrequent events: extreme concentration events, exceptional events, and unusual concentration events. Each of these types of events is described more fully in Chapter II. The extreme concentration event is the most frequently used method for excluding values from the designation process. Using a statistical process, ARB staff computes a site-specific and pollutant-specific value for each State standard averaging time. This computed value represents the concentration not expected to be exceeded more than once per year, on average, based on the distribution of data for the site. The resulting value, the Expected Peak Day Concentration (EPDC), is rounded to the precision of the State standard before being used. The measured or averaged (for example, 8-hour average) pollutant concentrations are also rounded and compared with the rounded EPDC. Any rounded concentrations that are higher than the rounded EPDC are excluded as extreme concentration events. Although the EPDC is designed to exclude an average of one exceedance per year, over the long-term, it will not necessarily exclude one exceedance per year during any particular three-year period. Depending on the distribution of the data, the EPDC will sometimes exclude more than one exceedance per year and sometimes less than one exceedance per year. In many cases, the EPDC will not exclude any exceedances during a given three-year period. Once the extreme concentrations are excluded from the database, the highest remaining concentration becomes the designation value for the site, unless it is identified as an exceptional event or unusual concentration event.

For example, consider a site with an 8-hour EPDC for ozone of 0.0796 ppm, and the four highest measured 8-hour average concentrations of 0.0832 ppm, 0.0812 ppm, 0.0807 ppm, and 0.0801 ppm during the prior three years. The ozone EPDC is rounded to 0.080 ppm (3 decimal places, which is the precision of the State 8-hour ozone standard; refer to Attachment D for a more detailed discussion of the rounding convention used in area designations). The four ozone measurements are also rounded to the precision of the State 8-hour standard (three digits), thus becoming 0.083 ppm, 0.081 ppm, 0.081 ppm, and 0.080 ppm, respectively. The 0.083 ppm average and the two 0.081 ppm averages are higher than the rounded EPDC. Therefore, these three rounded 8-hour averages are excluded from the area designation process. The next highest rounded 8-hour average, 0.080 ppm, is equal to or lower than the rounded EPDC, so it is not excluded. Since 0.080 ppm is the highest value not excluded, it becomes the 8-hour ozone designation value for the site, unless it can be excluded as an exceptional event or unusual concentration event.

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 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 standard, indicating attainment. In contrast, the 8-hour designation value for the same area may be higher than the State 8-hour standard, indicating nonattainment. In this case, the area would be designated as nonattainment for ozone because that is the more stringent designation category.

When there are less than three complete years of air quality data for a site, the EPDC may not be valid for area designation purposes. If the EPDC is not valid, no measurements are excluded as extreme concentration events. In this case, the designation value for a site is simply the highest measured concentration during the specified three-year period, after excluding measurements affected by exceptional events or unusual concentration events.

D. OZONE

Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, the staff recommends a change in the ozone designation for fifteen areas. As summarized in Table III-1, twelve areas qualify for redesignation as nonattainment, and three areas for redesignation as unclassified. As described previously, the change from ozone nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional occurs by operation of law. Similarly, the change from ozone nonattainment-transitional back to nonattainment also occurs by operation of law. In these two cases, the Board simply confirms the change based on guidelines set forth in the designation criteria, and takes the steps necessary to make sure the change is reflected in the area designation regulations. In contrast, all other designation changes for ozone require Board action.

Currently, there are two State standards for ozone: a 1-hour standard and an 8-hour standard. An area must attain both standards to be designated attainment. If either the 1-hour or 8-hour standard is violated, the area is nonattainment or nonattainment-transitional. The State 1-hour standard is 0.09 ppm, not to be exceeded. This standard has been in place for a number of years, and the Board reaffirmed the standard in April 2005. At the same time, the Board approved a new 8-hour standard of 0.070 ppm, not to be exceeded. This longer averaging time standard is designed to protect against the more chronic health impacts of longer-term ozone exposure. The State 8-hour ozone standard became effective May 17, 2006, and this is the first time the new 8-hour standard is being considered in the area designation process. Furthermore, because the 8-hour standard is more health-protective than the 1-hour standard, it tends to drive, or dictate, the ozone area designations.

TABLE III-1
Proposed Area Designation Changes for the State Ozone Standards

Great Basin Valleys Air Basin (Inyo County)	U	N
Lake Tahoe Air Basin	A	U
North Central Coast Air Basin	NA-T	N
North Coast Air Basin (Sonoma County portion)	A	N
Northeast Plateau Air Basin		
Lassen and Modoc Counties	A	U
Siskiyou County	A	N
Sacramento Valley Air Basin		
Butte County	NA-T	N
Shasta County	NA-T	N
Sutter and Yuba Counties	NA-T	N
Tehama County	NA-T	N
Yolo and Solano Counties	NA-T	N
South Central Coast Air Basin (San Luis Obispo County)	A	N

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

Table III-2 provides a summary of the status of each area of California with respect to both the 1-hour and 8-hour State ozone standards. For many areas of the State, there is no change in designation based on consideration of the new 8-hour standard. In general, the large urban areas of the State, such as the South Coast, San Joaquin Valley, and San Francisco Bay Area Air Basins, as well as some more rural areas, such as the Mountain Counties and Mojave Desert Air Basins, continue to be nonattainment. All of these areas have long been designated as nonattainment, based on the 1-hour ozone standard. Since the areas also violate the 8-hour standard, they will continue to be designated as nonattainment for ozone. As shown in Table III-2 these nonattainment areas tend to violate the State 8-hour standard by a greater margin than the 1-hour standard. In addition, Lake County Air Basin, which has been designated as attainment based on the State 1-hour ozone standard since the designations were initially made in 1989, attains the 8-hour standard, as well. As a result, this area will continue to be designated as attainment for ozone.

TABLE III-2
2006 Proposed Area Designations for State Ozone Standards⁽¹⁾

Air Basin	Area Included	8-Hour Standard (0.070 ppm)		1-Hour Standard (0.09 ppm)		Proposed Designation
		DV (ppm)	Designation Status	DV (ppm)	Designation Status	
Great Basin Valleys	Alpine County	no data	U	no data	U	U
	Inyo County	0.087	N	0.09 ⁽²⁾	U	N
	Mono County ⁽³⁾	0.095	N	0.10	N	N
Lake County	Entire Air Basin	0.066	A	0.08	A	A
Lake Tahoe ⁽⁴⁾	Entire Air Basin	0.069	U	0.09	U	U
Mojave Desert	Entire Air Basin	0.119	N	0.14	N	N
Mountain Counties	Plumas County ⁽⁵⁾	0.068	U	0.07	U	U
	Sierra County ⁽⁶⁾	no data	U	no data	U	U
	Tuolumne County	0.090	N	0.10	NA-T	N
	Remainder of Air Basin	0.115	N	0.13	N	N
North Central Coast	Entire Air Basin	0.084	N	0.10	NA-T	N
North Coast	Sonoma County	0.080	N	0.09 ⁽⁷⁾	U	N
	Remainder of Air Basin	0.062	A	0.08	A	A
Northeast Plateau	Lassen County	no data	U	no data	A ⁽⁸⁾	U
	Modoc County	no data	U	no data	A ⁽⁸⁾	U
	Siskiyou County	0.074	N	0.08	A	N
Sacramento Valley	Butte County	0.092	N	0.10	NA-T	N
	Colusa County	0.074	NA-T	0.08	NA-T	NA-T
	Glenn County	0.075	NA-T	0.08	NA-T	NA-T
	Shasta County	0.096	N	0.13	NA-T	N
	Sutter/Yuba Counties	0.082	N	0.09	NA-T	N
	Tehama County	0.090	N	0.10	NA-T	N
	Yolo/Solano Counties	0.087	N	0.10	NA-T	N
Remainder of Air Basin	0.111	N	0.13	N	N	
Salton Sea	Entire Air Basin	0.116	N	0.13	N	N
San Diego	Entire Air Basin	0.090	N	0.11	N	N
SF Bay Area	Entire Air Basin	0.090	N	0.12	N	N
San Joaquin Valley	Entire Air Basin	0.121	N	0.14	N	N
South Central Coast	San Luis Obispo County	0.080	N	0.09	NA-T	N
	Remainder of Air Basin	0.100	N	0.12	N	N
South Coast	Entire Air Basin	0.147	N	0.17	N	N

⁽¹⁾ Based on ambient ozone data collected during 2003, 2004, and 2005. DV = Designation Value, A = Attainment, N = Nonattainment, NA-T = Nonattainment-Transitional, and U = Unclassified.

⁽²⁾ Although the designation value does not violate the 1-hour standard, Inyo County qualifies as unclassified because the Death Valley monitoring site is not located in an area of expected high concentrations.

⁽³⁾ The Mammoth Lakes monitoring site closed in 2002, and the given designation values reflect 2000 through 2002 data. The County will continue to be designated as nonattainment until an equivalent site is established.

⁽⁴⁾ Although the designation values do not violate the State standards, data are incomplete for all sites located in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin during 2003 through 2005.

⁽⁵⁾ Although the designation values do not violate the State standards, Plumas County qualifies as unclassified because the Quincy monitoring site is not located in an area of expected high concentrations.

⁽⁶⁾ There is no monitoring site located in Sierra County.

In contrast, there will be a change in ozone designation for a large number of areas located throughout the State, based primarily on consideration of the new State 8-hour standard. For example, the North Central Coast Air Basin and seven counties (covering five districts) in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin were recently designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone, based on the 1-hour standard. Although these areas would still qualify as nonattainment-transitional based only on the 1-hour standard, they are nonattainment based on the more health-protective 8-hour standard. As a result, the areas will be designated as nonattainment for the State ozone standards. Additional discussion of the nonattainment-transitional category is provided in Chapter II.C. All areas with a change in designation status are discussed in the following sections.

1. Great Basin Valleys Air Basin (Inyo County)

Inyo County is located in the southern portion of the Great Basin Valleys Air Basin (GBVAB), and is currently designated as unclassified. The staff recommends the Board redesignate Inyo County as nonattainment.

There is one monitoring site in Inyo County, located at the Death Valley National Monument. The County is currently designated as unclassified for ozone, based on the State 1-hour standard. Although maximum 1-hour concentrations do not violate the State standard, data from the Death Valley monitoring site do not represent the area with the highest expected ozone concentrations and therefore, are not an appropriate basis for an attainment designation. As a result, Inyo County is currently designated as unclassified, based on the 1-hour standard.

In contrast to the 1-hour values, 8-hour ozone concentrations at the Death Valley National Monument site during 2003 through 2005 show multiple exceedances of the State 8-hour standard: 31 exceedance days during 2003, 28 during 2004, and 47 during 2005. One of these exceedances is excluded from the designation process because it is higher than the EPDC value of 0.090 ppm. However, the remaining 105 exceedances are considered violations of the standard, and the designation value for the County area is 0.087 ppm, which is well above the level of the State 8-hour ozone standard. Based on these violations, the staff recommends the Board redesignate Inyo County in the GBVAB as nonattainment for the State ozone standards.

2. Lake Tahoe Air Basin

The Lake Tahoe Air Basin (LTAB) is comprised of the eastern portions of El Dorado and Placer counties. This area is currently designated as attainment, based only on the 1-hour State ozone standard. ARB staff propose the Board redesignate the LTAB as unclassified for the State ozone standards. This proposal is based on data for sites located in the LTAB, and the exclusion of 2 exceedances measured at one of these sites as unusual concentration events. The reasons for the staff proposal are discussed

below.

Before moving on to a discussion of the LTAB ozone data, it is important to note that during previous years, a monitoring site located at Echo Summit was used in designating the LTAB because it was thought the monitoring site was located in the LTAB. However, recent evaluation of the site location using GIS mapping techniques indicates the Echo Summit site is actually located within the Mountain Counties Air Basin. Historically, in determining area designations, the Board has not used monitoring data from a site located outside the designated area. Therefore, ARB staff proposes the Echo Summit data not be considered in making an area designation for the LTAB.

Without the Echo Summit data, 2003 through 2005 ozone data for sites located within the LTAB are very limited, presenting a unique situation in this area. During this time period, three sites operated within the LTAB: South Lake Tahoe-Sandy Way (Sandy Way), Tahoe City-Lake Forest Road (Tahoe City), and South Lake Tahoe-Airport Road (Airport Road). None of the three sites have complete data for the three-year period. The Sandy Way site operated from January 2003 through April 2004, when the site was closed. The Airport Road site began operation in June 2005 as a replacement for Sandy Way, and it continues to operate. However, less than one year of data are currently available. Finally, the Tahoe City site operated from mid-March 2003 through the end of March 2004, as part of the Lake Tahoe Deposition Study.

Based on data for these three sites, the 1-hour ozone designation values for the LTAB sites are 0.07 ppm for the Airport Road site, 0.08 ppm for the Sandy Way site, and 0.09 ppm for the Tahoe City site. None of these values exceed the State 1-hour ozone standard. However, because none of the three sites have complete data under the provisions of the designation criteria, the LTAB would not qualify as attainment based only on the 1-hour standard. Instead, the LTAB would qualify as unclassified for the 1-hour standard.

Based on 8-hour average concentrations, neither the Airport Road nor Sandy Way site shows an exceedance of the State standard. In contrast, data for the Tahoe City site show two exceedances of the 8-hour standard during 2003, both at a level of 0.071 ppm, which is just slightly above the level of the State standard. Because data for the Tahoe City site are not complete, a valid EPDC cannot be calculated, and the exceedances cannot be excluded as extreme concentration events. However, staff recommends that they be excluded as unusual concentration events.

Under Appendix 2 of the designation criteria, an unusual concentration event is defined as an event which causes an anomalous exceedance of a State standard and which cannot be identified as an extreme concentration event or an exceptional event. Unusual concentration events may be identified only in areas already designated as attainment or unclassified at the time of the exceedance. The LTAB is currently designated as attainment, based on the 1-hour standard. Furthermore, previous

historical data for the Sandy Way site from 1995 to 2003 (Table III-3) shows that 8-hour ozone concentrations in the LTAB have been improving and that based on the most recent complete three year period (2001 to 2003), the LTAB would have qualified for attainment for the State 8-hour ozone standard.

TABLE III-3
8-Hour Ozone summary Statistics for the South Lake Tahoe-Sandy Way Site

Year	8-Hour Ozone Statistics		
	# Exceedance Days	EPDC (ppm)	Designation Value (ppm)
1995	5	0.078	0.077
1996	2	0.079	0.079
1997	1	0.077	0.074
1998	7	0.077	0.077
1999	3	0.077	0.077
2000	2	0.077	0.077
2001	2	0.075	0.074
2002	1	0.075	0.072
2003	0	0.075	0.069

Although two exceedances were measured at the Tahoe City site, no exceedances were recorded during the same time frame at the Sandy Way site. Therefore, the Tahoe City exceedances appear to be limited to the local area, as required under the procedure for identifying unusual concentration events. In addition, due to the short-term duration of the monitoring at Tahoe City, an assessment cannot be made regarding the representativeness of these exceedances. Therefore, ARB staff recommends the Board identify the two 8-hour ozone exceedances at the Tahoe City site as unusual concentration events and exclude them from the area designation process.

Based on the remaining data, the staff recommends the Board redesignate the LTAB as unclassified for the State ozone standards. The staff also recommends the Board direct staff to work with the local air pollution control districts and other interested public agencies and groups in ensuring that there is long-term monitoring in the LTAB, either at the current Airport Road site or another suitable location. These long-term data are needed for future area designation reviews.

3. North Central Coast Air Basin

Three counties, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz, comprise the North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB). Currently, the NCCAB is designated as nonattainment-transitional. As described earlier in this chapter, the change from ozone nonattainment-transitional back to nonattainment occurs by operation of law. Therefore, the staff recommends the Board confirm the redesignation of the NCCAB as nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change.

The site with the highest ozone concentrations in the NCCAB is the Pinnacles National Monument site in San Benito County, and the air basin is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional, based on data for the 1-hour State ozone standard. Data collected during 2005 at the Pinnacles National Monument site show two exceedances of the 1-hour standard. With a 1-hour designation value of 0.10 ppm, the NCCAB would again qualify as nonattainment-transitional based only on the 1-hour standard.

In contrast to the 1-hour data, 8-hour ozone data for the Pinnacles site show multiple exceedances of the more health-protective State 8-hour standard: 25 exceedance days in 2003, 11 in 2004, and six in 2005. Based on the 8-hour EPDC value of 0.084 ppm, four exceedances are excluded as extreme concentration events, leaving a total of 38 violations during the 3-year period. Although the Pinnacles monitoring site has the highest designation value and the greatest number of 8-hour violation days, the Hollister and Scott's Valley sites in Santa Cruz County also have designation values above the level of the State 8-hour ozone standard.

4. North Coast Air Basin (Sonoma County Portion)

The NCAB is comprised of Del Norte County, Humboldt County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, and the northern portion of Sonoma County. The entire North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) is currently designated as attainment, based on the 1-hour State ozone standard. The staff recommends the Board redesignate the northern Sonoma County portion of the NCAB as nonattainment for the State ozone standards.

Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity counties continue to show attainment of the 1-hour standard. Furthermore, available data indicate this four county area also attains the State 8-hour standard. Therefore, the staff does not recommend a designation change for these four counties.

In contrast, data for the Healdsburg-Municipal Airport monitoring site in northern Sonoma County do not show attainment of either the 1-hour or 8-hour State ozone standard. During 2003 through 2005, the Healdsburg data show no exceedances of the State 1-hour ozone standard. However, the data for 2005 are incomplete, with data missing from May 15 through August 23. Under the designation criteria, data for the three-year period must be complete during the high concentration season to qualify as

attainment. Because data are missing for most of the summer during 2005, northern Sonoma County does not qualify as attainment for the State 1-hour standard. Instead, the area would qualify as unclassified.

In contrast to the 1-hour data, the Healdsburg site shows one exceedance of the State 8-hour standard during 2003 and one during 2004. While the number of exceedance days is small, the incomplete 2005 data preclude the calculation of a valid 8-hour EPDC. In addition, based on a review of the long-term data at this site, these exceedances are not considered either unusual or exceptional events. Therefore, the 8-hour exceedance days cannot be excluded, and they are considered violations of the State standard. Because there were no exceedances during 2005, it might appear the northern Sonoma County would qualify as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. However, the data are not complete. In addition, State law (H&SC section 40925.5) specifies that only nonattainment districts may be designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone by operation of law. Because northern Sonoma County is currently designated as attainment, it does not qualify as nonattainment-transitional under the requirements of H&SC section 40925.5.

5. Northeast Plateau Air Basin

The Northeast Plateau Air Basin (NEPAB) is located in the northeastern part of California and is comprised of Lassen County, Modoc County, and Siskiyou County. Currently, monitoring data are available for only one site, located in the town of Yreka in Siskiyou County. Based on data from this monitor, the entire NEPAB is currently designated as attainment for ozone, based on the State 1-hour standard.

a. Siskiyou County

ARB staff recommend the Board redesignate Siskiyou County as nonattainment for the State ozone standards.

During 2003 through 2005, data from the Yreka-Foothill Drive monitoring site show no exceedances of the State 1-hour ozone standard. The designation value of 0.08 ppm is below the level of the 1-hour standard, and data for the three-year period are both representative and complete under the requirements of the designation criteria. Therefore, the NEPAB would qualify as attainment, based only on the State 1-hour standard.

Based on the State 8-hour standard, the Yreka data show three exceedances during 2003, one exceedance during 2004, and no exceedances during 2005. None of these exceedances are excluded by the EPDC nor are they considered unusual events, and therefore all four exceedances are considered violations of the standard. The designation value for the site is 0.074 ppm, which is above the level of the State 8-hour standard. Because there were no exceedances during 2005, it might appear the Siskiyou County would qualify as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. However, State

law (H&SC section 40925.5) specifies that only nonattainment districts may be designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone by operation of law. Because Siskiyou County is currently designated as attainment, it does not qualify as nonattainment-transitional under the requirements of H&SC section 40925.5. Therefore, based on the violations that occurred during 2003 and 2004, the staff recommends the Board redesignate Siskiyou County as nonattainment for the State ozone standards.

b. Lassen and Modoc Counties

Lassen and Modoc counties are also located in the NEPAB. Because no monitoring data are available for these two counties, the staff recommends the Board redesignate both Lassen County and Modoc County as unclassified for the State ozone standards.

Lassen and Modoc counties in the NEPAB are currently designated as attainment, based on 1-hour ozone monitoring data from the Yreka-Foothill Drive monitoring site in Siskiyou County. Because Yreka is the largest populated area in the NEPAB and represents an area of expected high concentrations within the air basin, ARB staff would expect concentrations in Lassen County and Modoc County to be lower than those measured in Yreka. Therefore, it is appropriate to use the Yreka data as a basis for designating Lassen and Modoc counties as attainment.

In contrast, Yreka is not an appropriate site for designating Lassen and Modoc counties as nonattainment. As discussed above, ARB staff would expect concentrations measured in Lassen and Modoc counties to be lower than those measured at Yreka. However, although the Yreka monitor is non-attainment for the 8-hour standard, there are no monitoring sites located in Lassen and Modoc counties. Therefore, staff cannot determine how much lower their concentrations are, or whether they exceed the level of the standard. Based on the lack of data for Lassen and Modoc counties, the staff recommends these two counties be designated as unclassified for the State ozone standards.

6. Sacramento Valley Air Basin

The Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) is located in the north central portion of California and is comprised of the following areas: Butte County, Colusa County, Glenn County, western Placer County, Sacramento County, Shasta County, eastern Solano County, Sutter County, Tehama County, Yolo County, and Yuba County. During 2005, based on 2002 through 2004 data, a number of SVAB districts qualified as nonattainment-transitional. As a result, Butte, Shasta, Solano (SVAB portion), Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties were redesignated by operation of law. Colusa and Glenn counties remained designated as nonattainment-transitional, while Sacramento and Placer (SVAB portion) counties remained designated as nonattainment. Based on the most recent 2003 to 2005 data, the following areas have a change in designation status.

a. Butte County

Butte County comprises the Butte County Air Quality Management District and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. ARB staff recommends the Board confirm the change in designation for Butte County from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change that occurred by operation of law.

During 2003 through 2005, monitoring data are available for sites in Chico and Paradise. Data for Chico-Manzanita do not show any exceedances of the State 1-hour standard during the three-year period. However, a limited number of exceedances were measured at the Paradise-Airport Road site during 2003 and 2004; no exceedances occurred at this site during 2005. Because there were no exceedances during 2005, and data are both representative and complete, Butte County would qualify as nonattainment-transitional for the 1-hour State ozone standard.

In contrast to the 1-hour standard, both Butte County sites show violations of the State 8-hour standard during 2003 through 2005. Again, the highest concentrations and greatest number of exceedances were measured at the Paradise site. There were 44 8-hour exceedance days during 2003, 37 days during 2004, and 31 days during 2005. One of these exceedances is excluded by the EPDC as an extreme concentration event, leaving 111 violations of the State 8-hour standard. The designation value for the Paradise site is 0.092 ppm, which is well above the level of the standard.

Based on these data, Butte County no longer qualifies as nonattainment-transitional for the ozone, and the area reverts to nonattainment, by operation of law.

b. Shasta County

Shasta County comprises the Shasta County Air Quality Management District and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. ARB staff recommend the Board confirm the change in designation for Shasta County from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change that occurred by operation of law.

During 2003 through 2005, monitoring data are available for three sites in Shasta County. The Anderson-North Street and Redding-Health Department sites are the high sites for the area. Both sites show 3 or fewer exceedances of the 1-hour standard during 2005, and data for both sites are representative and complete under the designation criteria. As a result, Shasta County would qualify as nonattainment-transitional, based only on the 1-hour standard.

In contrast, both the Anderson and Redding sites show numerous violations of the State

8-hour ozone standard during all three years. Specifically, the Anderson site had 74 violation days during 2003 through 2005, while the Redding site had 32 violation days. Both sites have an 8-hour designation value of 0.096 ppm, which is well above the level of the State 8-hour ozone standard.

Based on these data, Shasta County no longer qualifies as nonattainment-transitional for ozone, and the area reverts to nonattainment, by operation of law.

c. Sutter and Yuba Counties

Sutter and Yuba counties comprise the Feather River Air Quality Management District (Feather River AQMD) and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. ARB staff recommend the Board confirm the change in designation for Sutter and Yuba counties from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change that occurred by operation of law.

During 2005, the Feather River AQMD, which comprises Sutter and Yuba counties, was redesignated as nonattainment-transitional for the State 1-hour ozone standard. This redesignation was based on data for the Yuba City monitoring site, which is located in Sutter County. There is no ozone monitoring site located in Yuba County. However, the two most populated areas in the two counties, Yuba City in Sutter County and Marysville in Yuba County, form a contiguous urbanized area, separated only by the Feather River. Because the two towns are so close in proximity, the Yuba City site can be used to represent air quality in both counties.

It is important to note that an additional ozone monitoring site in Sutter County is located on the Sutter Buttes. This site was located to monitor ozone transported aloft from other areas. Because of the site's high elevation and its location in an isolated area atop the Sutter Buttes where no people live, this monitor is not appropriate for use in determining an area designation and is not used for this purpose. ARB staff made a similar determination for federal purposes during the designation process for the federal 8-hour ozone standard.

During 2005, representative and complete data for the Yuba City site show no exceedances of the State 1-hour ozone standard. Therefore, the Feather River AQMD would again qualify as nonattainment-transitional, based only on the 1-hour standard.

In contrast to the 1-hour data, ozone data for the Yuba City monitoring site (located in Sutter County) show 18 exceedances of the 8-hour standard in 2003, five exceedances in 2004, and seven in 2005. The EPDC for the three-year period is 0.086 ppm. None of the measured exceedances are above the EPDC value, and therefore, none are excluded from the designation process. This means that all 30 exceedances are considered violations of the State 8-hour standard. The designation value for the Sutter County/Yuba County area is 0.082 ppm, which is above the level of the State 8-hour ozone standard.

Based on these data, the Feather River AQMD no longer qualifies as nonattainment-transitional for ozone, and Sutter and Yuba counties revert to nonattainment, by operation of law.

d. Tehama County

Tehama County comprises the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District and is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. ARB staff recommend the Board confirm the change in designation for Tehama County from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change that occurred by operation of law.

During 2003 through 2005, monitoring data are available for two sites in Tehama County, Red Bluff-Oak Street and Tuscan Butte. During 2005, data for the Red Bluff site show two exceedances of the State 1-hour standard, while data for the Tuscan Butte site show no exceedances. Data for both sites are representative and complete, as required under the designation criteria for nonattainment-transitional. Therefore, Tehama County would qualify as nonattainment-transitional, for ozone, based only on the State 1-hour standard.

In contrast, both sites show numerous exceedances of the State 8-hour standard. With respect to this standard, Tuscan Butte is the higher site, with an 8-hour designation value of 0.090 ppm and 37 exceedance days during 2003, 51 during 2004, and 35 during 2005. All 123 of these exceedances are considered violations of the 8-hour standard. For comparison, data for the Red Bluff site show 23 violations of the standard, but data for this site are not complete for the three-year period.

Based on monitoring data, Tehama County no longer qualifies as nonattainment-transitional for the State ozone standards, and the County reverts to nonattainment, by operation of law.

e. Yolo and Solano Counties

Yolo County and the SVAB portion of Solano County comprise the portion of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (Yolo-Solano AQMD) located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. Currently, the Yolo-Solano AQMD is designated as nonattainment-transitional for ozone. ARB staff recommend the Board confirm the change in designation for Yolo County and the SVAB portion of Solano County from nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment and amend the area designation regulations to reflect this change that occurred by operation of law.

During 2005, data collected at sites in Davis, Woodland, and Vacaville show fewer than three exceedances of the State 1-hour ozone standard, and all three sites have a designation value of 0.10 ppm. Furthermore, data for all three sites are representative

and complete under the requirements of the designation criteria. Based on these data, the Yolo-Solano AQMD would qualify as nonattainment-transitional, based only on the 1-hour standard.

In contrast, 8-hour ozone data show the greatest number of exceedances at the Vacaville-Ulatis site during the 2003 through 2005 time period: five exceedances in 2003, three in 2004, and five in 2005. All 13 of these exceedances are considered violations of the State 8-hour standard. The Vacaville site also has the highest 8-hour designation value in the Solano County/Yolo County area, at 0.087 ppm. The Davis and Woodland sites also have designation values above the level of the 8-hour standard, 0.082 ppm and 0.086 ppm, respectively.

Because of the number of violations and the designation values above the level of the State 8-hour standard, Yolo County and the SVAB portion of Solano County no longer qualify as nonattainment-transitional for the State ozone standards. Therefore, both counties revert to nonattainment, by operation of law.

7. South Central Coast Air Basin (San Luis Obispo County)

San Luis Obispo County is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB). Currently, the County is designated as attainment, based only on the 1-hour standard. Based on data for sites located in San Luis Obispo County, ARB staff recommend the Board redesignate the County as nonattainment for ozone. Generally, the three counties in SCCAB are treated as separate planning areas for ozone due to difference in topography and air quality. However, because Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are also nonattainment, all three counties share the same designation status and the area designation regulations would reflect the entire SCCAB as a single nonattainment area.

During 2003 through 2005, data show a limited number of exceedances at the two high sites, Atascadero-Lewis Avenue and Paso Robles-Santa Fe Avenue. All of the exceedances are excluded by the EPDC values, so there are no violations of the State 1-hour standard in San Luis Obispo County. Both Atascadero-Lewis Avenue and Paso Robles-Santa Fe Avenue have the same 1-hour designation value of 0.09 ppm. In addition, data for both sites for the three-year period are representative and complete under the designation criteria. Therefore, San Luis Obispo County qualifies as attainment, based only on the State 1-hour standard.

In contrast, the County does not qualify as attainment for the State 8-hour standard. During 2003 through 2005, the highest designation value and the greatest number of exceedances occurred at the Atascadero site. Over the three-year period, there were a total of 16 State 8-hour exceedances. One of these is excluded as an extreme concentration event, leaving 15 violations. The designation value for the site, and therefore the County, is 0.080 ppm, which is above the level of the State 8-hour standard.

E. CARBON MONOXIDE

There are three State carbon monoxide (CO) standards: a 1-hour standard of 20 ppm, and 8-hour standard of 6.0 ppm that applies only in the LTAB, and an 8-hour standard of 9.0 ppm that applies in all other areas of the State. The 8-hour LTAB standard is not to be exceeded while the remaining two CO standards are not to be equaled or exceeded. Based on data collected during 2003 to 2005, one area qualifies for redesignation as attainment.

1. Imperial County (Salton Sea Air Basin)

Imperial County and the central portion of Riverside County comprise the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). Currently, the Riverside portion of the air basin is designated as attainment for the State CO standards. Although the majority of Imperial County is designated as unclassified, the city of Calexico is designated as nonattainment. Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, the entire Imperial County area qualifies for redesignation as attainment, and ARB staff recommend that the Board redesignate Imperial County as attainment for the State CO standards. With this change, there are no longer any State CO nonattainment areas within California.

The 1-hour State CO standard has not been exceeded anywhere in Imperial County since 1999. During 2003 through 2005, the maximum 1-hour concentration in the County was 12.6 ppm at the Calexico-East monitoring site. This value is below the level of the State 1-hour CO standard.

During 2003 through 2005, the 8-hour CO standard was exceeded only once in Imperial County, at the Calexico-Ethel site. All other 8-hour averages during the three-year period were below the level of the State standard. Over the last decade, all three monitoring sites in Imperial County (Calexico-Ethel, Calexico-East, and El Centro) have shown substantial reductions in CO concentrations. For example, the maximum 1-hour and 8-hour concentrations during 1995 through 1997 were 32 ppm and 22.9 ppm, respectively, compared with maximums of 12.6 ppm and 10.3 ppm during the 2003 through 2005 time period.

The Calexico-Ethel monitoring site represents the high CO site in Imperial County, and the CO data collected at this site during 2003 through 2005 are both representative and complete, as required under the criteria for an attainment designation. Furthermore, the rounded 8-hour EPDC value of 8.4 ppm is valid. Because the one measured exceedance of 10.3 ppm is higher than the rounded EPDC, this exceedance is excluded from the designation process as an extreme concentration, and the designation value for the County is 8.3 ppm.

Because the designation value of 8.3 ppm is below the level of the State 8-hour CO standard, the Imperial County portion of the SSAB qualifies as attainment for CO.

F. SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER (PM10)

There are two State PM10 standards: a 24-hour standard of 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and an annual standard of $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, calculated as an annual arithmetic mean. These concentrations are not to be exceeded. Based on a review of 2003 through 2005 air quality data, one area qualifies for redesignation as attainment.

1. Sonoma County (North Coast Air Basin portion)

Sonoma County is split between two air basins. The southern portion is located in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and the northern portion is located in the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). Currently, the northern portion of Sonoma County is designated as nonattainment. ARB staff recommend that the portion of Sonoma County in the NCAB be redesignated as attainment for PM10

In designating an area smaller than an air basin as attainment for PM10, the Board must find that air quality in the smaller area is distinctly different from the rest of the air basin. Sonoma County has long been designated as a separate attainment area for ozone (ARB, April 1989) due to its unique geographic position and meteorological influences.

Northern Sonoma County is separated from the other four counties in the NCAB by mountains, and its air quality is more closely linked with that of the San Francisco Bay Area than that of Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, or Del Norte Counties. Furthermore, because of the differences in topography and air quality, the five counties in the NCAB are treated as three separate planning areas. These factors indicate that the PM10 air quality in northern Sonoma County is distinctly different from that in the rest of the NCAB. Data from monitoring sites with complete data Guerneville-Church and Healdsburg have been consistently low showing a three-year annual average maximum of $16 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $14 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively, as well as no violations of the 24-hour average PM10 standard.

Based on these data, ARB staff conclude that northern Sonoma County did not have any PM10 violations during the 2003 through 2005 time period and should be designated as a separate attainment area.

G. FINE SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER (PM2.5)

There is one State PM2.5 standard: an annual average of $12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, calculated as an annual arithmetic mean. This concentration is not to be exceeded. Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, one area qualifies for redesignation as attainment.

1. San Luis Obispo County (South Central Coast Air Basin)

San Luis Obispo County in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) coincides in area with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. Currently, San Luis Obispo County is designated unclassified. The remaining portions of the SCCAB, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County, are designated as unclassified and nonattainment, respectively. ARB staff recommend the Board redesignate San Luis Obispo County as attainment for the State PM_{2.5} standard.

In designating an area smaller than an air basin as attainment for PM_{2.5}, the Board must find that air quality in the smaller area is distinctly different from the rest of the air basin. San Luis Obispo County is separated from the other two counties in the SCCAB by mountains, and its air quality is more closely linked with that of the San Francisco Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley than that of Santa Barbara County or Ventura County (ARB, December 2003). Furthermore, because of the differences in topography and air quality, the three counties in the SCCAB are treated as separate planning areas. These factors indicate that the PM_{2.5} air quality in San Luis Obispo County is distinctly different from that in the rest of the SCCAB. Data from monitoring sites at Atascadero and San Luis Obispo-March St (SLO-March) have been consistently low with Atascadero showing a three-year maximum of 8 µg/m³ and SLO-March a two-year maximum of almost half the standard at 7 µg/m³.

Based on the available PM_{2.5} data and the conservative estimates for the years with missing data, ARB staff conclude that the State PM_{2.5} standard is not violated in San Luis Obispo County of the SCCAB, and should be designated as a separate attainment area.

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CHAPTER IV

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

State law (H&SC section 39607(e)) requires the Board to establish criteria for designating areas as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State standards. State law (H&SC section 39608(c)) further requires the Board 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 area designations reflect the application of the designation criteria set forth in CCR, title 17, sections 70300 through 70306 and Appendices 1 through 4, thereof. Each proposed area designation is accompanied by a discussion of its basis and justification. ARB staff have considered the potential alternatives to the proposed amendments (namely, the no action alternative). However, based on the available data, ARB staff find the proposed amendments are more appropriate than the no action alternative because the no action alternative would not be consistent with State law. In addition, the no action alternative would not inform the public about the healthfulness of air quality based on the most recent data.

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CHAPTER V

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

ARB staff do not expect the proposed amendments to have any adverse 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 the Board'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. The area designations are simply labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area, although subsequent requirements for action may result after additional steps, such as plan preparation and approval, are taken. Because the area designation regulations by themselves contain no requirements for action, 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. The ARB is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with 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 title 1, CCR, section 4, that the proposed regulatory action will not affect small businesses because the proposed regulatory action does not contain any requirements for action.

Before taking final action on the proposed regulatory action, the Board 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

Similar to the previous discussion, the area designations do not contain any requirements for action, 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, the Board must determine that no alternative considered by 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.

CHAPTER VI

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A. INTRODUCTION

The intent of the proposed regulatory action is to identify areas with unhealthy ambient air quality. Adopting the proposed amendments to the area designations will not result in any direct impact on public health or the environment because the regulations do not contain any requirements for action. However, because State law specifies certain requirements based on an area's designation status, there may be indirect benefits, based on the area designations.

B. AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The area designations do not contain any requirements for action, and therefore, they will not result in any air quality or environmental benefits. However, the area designations do label areas with respect to the healthfulness of their air quality. Based on these labels, certain planning requirements may come into play, thereby providing some indirect benefits to air quality and the environment.

The proposed amendments to the area designations would change the State ozone designations for fifteen areas. Under State law, there are specific planning requirements for areas designated as nonattainment or nonattainment-transitional for ozone and CO. Furthermore, areas designated as attainment are required to adopt and implement rules and regulations necessary to maintain attainment status. The goal of these planning requirements is to bring the area into attainment as expeditiously as practicable. Therefore, these requirements will result in air quality and environmental benefits.

ARB staff are also proposing one change each to the State CO, PM10, and PM2.5 designations. These changes would designate areas as attainment. Areas designated as attainment for any pollutant are required to adopt and implement the rules and regulations necessary to maintain attainment status. These requirements will result in air quality and environmental benefits.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Board 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 the Board to ensure that full protection is afforded to all Californians. The proposed amendments to the area

designations do not contain any requirements for action. However, the area designations are designed to identify areas with unhealthful air quality, based on the most recently available data.

Based on an area's designation category, there may be specific planning requirements for improving the level of air quality. These requirements will result in reduced emissions for all nonattainment communities throughout the State. Furthermore, although State law does not impose any specific planning requirements upon districts with areas designated as attainment or unclassified, State law does require districts and the Board 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 will result in improved air quality in communities throughout the State, with associated lower potential health risks.