

PM White Paper Overview

The purpose of the 2016 AQMP White Paper on Particulate Matter is to provide background technical information and present the policy challenges associated with attaining the federal and State particulate matter (PM) standards, with a focus on the newly adopted annual PM_{2.5} standard of 12 µg/m³. Annual PM_{2.5} concentrations continue to decrease and the Basin is projected to be close to attaining the new annual standard once the ozone strategy is implemented, but further actions may be needed to ensure attainment. Several scientific and policy issues will be described: the role of direct PM emissions, PM precursor gases, and the PM co-benefits from ozone control programs. Key to the policy discussion is the potential need for “back-up” measures for PM_{2.5} given that the attainment demonstration cannot include the “black box” advanced technology emissions reductions that are used to demonstrate attainment of the ozone standard under CAA section 182(e)(5). Even though the ozone strategy will have significant PM_{2.5} benefits, only specific measures adopted at the time of the 2016 AQMP submittal can be credited towards the PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration. The PM White Paper will address each of these elements, including source categories for potential control through traditional approaches as well as seasonal, episodic or geographically-focused controls.