



Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone Standard

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



F A C T S H E E T

Overview

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for different air pollutants. Areas that do not meet the NAAQS are called nonattainment areas. For ozone, there are multiple levels of nonattainment: marginal, moderate, serious, severe-15, severe-17, and extreme.
- The Coachella Valley attains the federal standards for one-hour ozone, particulate matter less than 2.5 microns, nitrogen dioxide (NOx), carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur dioxide, but is nonattainment for the following 8-hour ozone standards:

Federal Ozone Standard	Designation	Deadline to Reach Standard
1997 8-hour Ozone (0.08 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme)	6/15/2024
2008 8-Hour Ozone (0.075 ppm)	Nonattainment (Severe-15)	7/20/2027
2015 8-Hour Ozone (0.070 ppm)	Nonattainment (Severe-15)	8/3/2033

- For the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, the Coachella Valley was classified as a “severe-15” nonattainment area in 2010 with an attainment date of June 15, 2019.
- The ozone levels in the Coachella Valley have improved significantly over the last several decades, primarily because of emission reduction programs in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). Since ozone is formed by chemical reactions in the atmosphere over the course of a day, ozone levels in Coachella Valley are almost entirely dependent on emissions from upwind in the Basin and not on emissions within Coachella Valley.
- Average values have declined from 0.108 ppm in 2003 to 0.089 ppm in 2019. However, due to higher temperatures and stagnant weather conditions, the Coachella Valley experienced unusually high ozone levels in 2017 and 2018. As a result, the Coachella Valley did not attain the 1997 ozone standard by the attainment deadline of June 2019.
- Last year, South Coast AQMD submitted a request to the U.S. EPA to reclassify Coachella Valley from “severe” to “extreme” nonattainment, which was subsequently granted by the U.S. EPA. The new attainment date is June 15, 2024. This reclassification is allowed under the federal Clean Air Act, provides more time to attain the standard, but results in stricter permitting requirements on major stationary sources.
- A revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is needed to address the federal Clean Air Act requirements resulting from the reclassification of Coachella Valley to “extreme” nonattainment.

Draft Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone Standard (Extreme Area Plan)

The Extreme Area Plan is developed to address the Clean Air Act planning requirements and it includes the following key elements:

- Updated 2018 base year and 2023 projected emissions inventories based on best available information;
- Updated modeling analysis and attainment demonstration – The 8-hour ozone levels are projected to be 0.083 and 0.079 ppm in Palm Springs and Indio, respectively in 2023. Per EPA’s guideline, if the projected 8-hour ozone level is below 0.0849 ppm, it is considered in attainment;
- Evaluation of control strategies and emission reductions needed for attainment including an evaluation of potential feasible measures, the impact of existing and recently adopted rules and regulations by South Coast AQMD and CARB; and
- Other Clean Air Act requirements such as a Reasonable Further Progress demonstration

Other Clean Air Act Requirements addressed through parallel rulemaking activities include:

- Lowering the emission threshold that defines “major” stationary sources (for permitting requirements) from 25 to 10 tons per year of NOx and volatile organic compounds (VOC); and
- Contingency measures to ensure progress in reducing emissions and attaining the standard



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C O N T I N U E F A C T S H E E T

Summary

Based on the updated emissions inventory and air quality modeling analysis, the Coachella Valley is expected to achieve the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by the end of 2023 through continued implementation of existing rules and regulations.

In addition, recently adopted regulations by South Coast AQMD and CARB, which are not relied upon for the attainment demonstration, will provide further reductions to ensure that Coachella Valley will attain the standard in or before 2023.

Schedule and Public Process

- AB 617 Community Steering Committee – Aug 26, 2020
- AQMP Advisory Group – Sep 3, 2020
- South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee – Sep 18, 2020
- Public Consultation Meeting – Sep 25, 2020 (with draft Extreme Area Plan available on internet: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/other-state-implementation-plan-\(sip\)-revisions](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/other-state-implementation-plan-(sip)-revisions))
- South Coast AQMD Governing Board – Dec 4, 2020

Written Comments

Written comments relating to the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan should be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Please send comments, questions, and documents regarding the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan to:

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More Information

For more information on the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, please contact Dr. Kalam Cheung at (909) 396-3281 or kcheung@aqmd.gov, or visit [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/other-state-implementation-plan-\(sip\)-revisions](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/other-state-implementation-plan-(sip)-revisions)



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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