

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED COACHELLA VALLEY EXTREME AREA PLAN FOR 1997 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD AND PROPOSED SUBMISSION INTO THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PROPOSED ATTAINMENT PLAN FOR 2006 24-HOUR PM2.5 STANDARD FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN AND PROPOSED SUBMISSION INTO THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings on the matter of the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard and the Attainment Plan for 2006 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the South Coast Air Basin will be held on **December 4, 2020** at 9:00 a.m., at which time evidence will be taken and all interested persons will be heard by the South Coast AQMD Board. Given the health and safety concerns regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), this meeting will be conducted via webcast with opportunities for public comment. Please refer to the instructions on the South Coast AQMD's website for details on how to participate: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purpose of these hearings is for the South Coast AQMD Governing Board to consider approval of the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard (herein referred as Coachella Valley Plan) and the Attainment Plan for 2006 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the South Coast Air Basin (herein referred as PM2.5 Attainment Plan) and submitting the Coachella Valley Plan and the PM2.5 Attainment Plan to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion into the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Coachella Valley Planning Area (herein referred as Coachella Valley) is defined as the desert portion of the Riverside County in the Salton Sea Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast AQMD.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Coachella Valley was classified as a Severe-15 nonattainment area for the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (standard) in 2010 with an attainment deadline of June 15, 2019.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that unusually high ozone levels were experienced in 2017 and 2018 in the Coachella Valley which were also observed in the South Coast Air Basin, the State of California, and the Western United States primarily due to higher temperatures and stagnant weather conditions. As a result of the high ozone levels in 2017 and 2018, the Coachella Valley failed to meet the standard by the 2019 attainment deadline.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the South Coast AQMD submitted a formal request to the U.S. EPA through CARB in June 2019 to reclassify Coachella Valley from a Severe-15 to an Extreme nonattainment area with a new attainment date of June 15, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the U.S. EPA granted the reclassification request on July 10, 2019, and accordingly, under the new Extreme nonattainment classification, a revision to the SIP is required to be submitted to the U.S. EPA by February 14, 2021.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purpose of the Coachella Valley Plan is to demonstrate attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard as expeditiously as possible and before the attainment date of June 2024, and to address the new federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements for extreme nonattainment areas.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the draft Coachella Valley Plan implements Sections 110, 172, and 182(e) of the federal CAA.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the draft Coachella Valley Plan includes new information on key elements such as:

- Current air quality;
- Updated emission inventories and air quality modeling;
- Attainment Demonstration;
- Reasonable further progress and emission reduction requirements;
- Reasonably Available Control Technology and Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACT/RACM);
- An overall control strategy; and
- Contingency measure.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that based on the updated inventory and modeling analysis, the Coachella Valley is expected to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by 2023 based on the continued implementation of existing regulations and programs by South Coast AQMD and CARB.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the draft Coachella Valley Plan was released on September 11, 2020 for public review. Written comments received on or before October 13, 2020 will be addressed and included in the draft final Coachella Valley Plan which will be released on or before November 3, 2020.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a public consultation meeting was held on September 25, 2020 through Zoom videoconferencing and by telephone and comments from the public were received and addressed at the meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on September 16, 2020, the U.S. EPA finalized the determination that the South Coast Air Basin failed to attain the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS (35 µg/m³) by the December 31, 2019 attainment date.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that within one year from the attainment date, a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is required to address the federal Clean Air Act requirements for a Serious nonattainment that fails to attain by the attainment deadline.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the PM2.5 Attainment Plan is designed to meet the federal Clean Air Act requirements for the South Coast Air Basin (Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County and Riverside County).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the PM2.5 Attainment Plan implements Sections 110, 172, and 189 of the Federal Clean Air Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the PM2.5 Attainment Plan includes new information on key elements such as:

- Current air quality;
- Updated emission inventories;
- Reasonable further progress and emission reduction requirements;
- An overall control strategy;
- Attainment demonstration;
- Contingency measure; and
- Motor vehicle emission budgets for transportation conformity purposes.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that based on the updated emissions inventory, air quality modeling, and air quality trend analysis in the PM2.5 Attainment Plan, the South Coast Air Basin is expected to attain the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS in 2023 through continued implementation of existing rules and regulations.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the draft PM2.5 Attainment Plan was released on September 18, 2020 for public review. Written comments received on or before October 19, 2020 will be addressed and included in the draft final PM2.5 Attainment Plan which will be released on or before November 3, 2020.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a Regional Public Hearing was held for the PM2.5 Attainment Plan on October 7, 2020 through Zoom videoconferencing and by telephone and no comments were received at the meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15002(k) and 15061, the proposed projects are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15308. Further, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed projects. Notices of Exemption will be prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 and if the proposed projects are approved, the Notices of Exemption will be filed for posting with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the draft Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard and draft Attainment Plan for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the South Coast Air Basin are available at: [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) or may be obtained from the South Coast AQMD's publication request line at (909) 396-2001, or from: Mr. Derrick Alatorre – Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765, (909) 396-2432, dalatorre@aqmd.gov.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the conclusion of the public hearings, the South Coast AQMD Board may make other modifications to the Coachella Valley Plan and/or the PM2.5 Attainment Plan, which are justified by the evidence presented, or may decline to approve.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the conclusion of the public hearings, if approved by the South Coast AQMD Board, the Coachella Valley Plan and the PM2.5 Attainment Plan will be submitted to the CARB and the U.S. EPA for inclusion into the SIP.

Questions, comments or requests for clarification regarding the Coachella Valley Plan can be directed to Mr. Jong Hoon Lee, Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182, jhlee@aqmd.gov, (909) 396-3903. Questions, comments or requests for clarification regarding the PM2.5 Attainment Plan can be directed to Ms. Kalam Cheung, Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182, kcheung@aqmd.gov, (909) 396-2431. All CEQA inquiries can be directed to Ms. Barbara Radlein, CEQA Section, Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182, bradlein@aqmd.gov, (909) 396-2716.

Interested persons may provide oral statements at the Public Hearings. Individuals who wish to submit written or electronic comments must submit such comments to the Clerk of the Board, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA, 91765-4178, (909) 396-2500, or to cob@aqmd.gov, on or before 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Governing Board meeting. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Gov. Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language-related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact the Clerk of the Board Office, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA, 91765-4178, at (909) 396-2500 (for TTY, 909-396-3560) from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to PICrequests@aqmd.gov.

DATED: October 28, 2020

FAYE THOMAS
Clerk of the Boards