



South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standard

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FACT SHEET

Overview

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for different air pollutants. EPA sets the NAAQS at levels that protect public health. Areas that do not meet the NAAQS are called nonattainment areas.
- Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is one of the air pollutants for which EPA has established a NAAQS. There are multiple NAAQS for PM_{2.5} because EPA revises the standards over time.
- There are two levels of nonattainment for PM_{2.5}: Moderate and Serious.
- The following summarizes the attainment status of the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) for all federal PM_{2.5} standards:

Federal PM _{2.5} Standard	Level	Attainment Deadline	South Coast Attainment Status
1997 Annual PM _{2.5}	15 µg/m ³	2015	Attained in 2013
1997 24-hour PM _{2.5}	65 µg/m ³	2015	Attained in 2013
2006 24-hour PM _{2.5}	35 µg/m ³	2019	Serious Nonattainment
2012 Annual PM _{2.5}	12 µg/m ³	2025	Serious Nonattainment

- For the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, the Basin is a Serious nonattainment area, with an attainment date of 2019.
- PM_{2.5} levels in the Basin have decreased significantly over the last two decades due to emission reduction programs and were very close to the standard as early as 2011. However, several subsequent years of drought and lack of rainfall caused increased PM_{2.5} levels.
- As a result, based on ambient monitoring data from 2017 to 2019, the Basin did not meet the federal 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard by the 2019 deadline. South Coast AQMD is now required to develop a revised plan showing how the region will meet the standard as early as possible.

Attainment Status

In September 2020, the EPA found that the South Coast Air Basin failed to attain the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the required deadline. Two monitoring sites, Mira Loma and Compton, exceeded the standard:

- Mira Loma has had the highest PM_{2.5} concentration in the Basin since 2008 and it is impacted by PM_{2.5} that forms in the atmosphere (secondary PM_{2.5}) as well as local sources. Preliminary 2020 data (years 2018-2020 to date) shows that Mira Loma will attain the standard by the end of 2020 if no more than 4 days are above 35.5 µg/m³ for rest of the year.
- Compton became the highest PM_{2.5} site in 2017, due to three abnormally high PM_{2.5} episodes measured on January 1, 2017 and in late December, 2017. Preliminary 2020 data (years 2018-2020 to date) shows levels well below the standard, indicating Compton will attain the standard by the end of 2020.

Draft South Coast Air Basin Plan for Meeting the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standard

The South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard addresses new planning requirements and shows how the region will meet the standard. The plan includes the following key elements:

- Updated 2018 base year and 2023 future year emissions inventories based on best available data;
- Demonstrating a 5% annual reduction of NO_x emissions based on existing regulations;
- Updated air quality modeling analysis and an analysis showing how the standard will be met (attainment demonstration);
- Evaluation of control strategies and emission reductions needed for attainment including an evaluation of potential feasible measures and 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



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FACT SHEET (Continued)

Attainment Demonstration- Two-Fold Approach

We can show that we will attain the standard by the deadline using the following approaches:

- For Mira Loma and all other locations in the Basin except Compton, we project that we will attain the standard by 2023 according to our updated emissions inventory and regional air quality modeling. These reflect reductions based on existing regulations. Additional reductions from recently adopted regulations will further assure timely attainment. No new regulations are needed to meet this standard.
- For Compton, it is likely that anomalous local human activities caused the three high data points observed in 2017. These high levels were not observed before or after 2017. Air quality trend analysis based on monitoring data shows that Compton will attain the standard by 2023, and very likely will attain even earlier by the end of 2020.

Summary

Based on the updated emissions inventory, air quality modeling, and air quality trend analysis, the Basin is expected to attain the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS in 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 additional reductions to further ensure that the Basin will attain the standard in or before 2023.

Schedule and Public Process

- Scientific, Technical, and Modeling Peer Review Advisory Group – Aug 20, 2020
- South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee – Aug 21, 2020
- AQMP Advisory Group – Sep 3, 2020
- Draft Attainment Plan released - Sept 18, 2020 [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)
- Regional Public Hearing – Oct 7, 2020
- South Coast AQMD Governing Board Set Hearing – Nov 6, 2020
- South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing – Dec 4, 2020

Written Comments

Written comments relating to the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan should be submitted no later than **Monday, October 19, 2020**. Please send comments, questions, and documents regarding the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan to:

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More Information

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