

GLOSSARY

AB 2766 Funds (AB 2766 (Sher) Motor Vehicle Fee Program): A program that permits air districts and local governments to allocate vehicle registration surcharge fees to projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions such as zero emission vehicles, alternative-fueled street sweepers and trip reduction programs.

Air Pollutants: Amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects on humans, animals, vegetation, and/or materials.

Area Sources: Stationary sources of pollution (e.g., water heaters, gas furnaces, fireplaces, and wood stoves) that are typically associated with homes and non-industrial sources. The CCAA requires districts to include area sources in the development and implementation of AQMPs.

Air Toxics: A generic term referring to a harmful chemical or group of chemicals in the air that has the potential to produce adverse health effects. Typically, substances that are especially harmful to health, such as those considered under USEPA's hazardous air pollutant program or California's AB 1807 toxic air contaminant program, are considered to be air toxics.

Alternative Fuels: Fuels such as methanol, ethanol, natural gas, and liquid propane gases that are cleaner burning and help to meet CARB's mobile and stationary emission standards.

Ambient Air: The air found at a particular time and place outside of structures. Often used interchangeably with "outdoor air."

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP): A plan prepared by an air pollution control district or air quality management district, for a county or region designated as a non-attainment area, for the purpose of bringing the area into compliance with the requirements of the national and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards. AQMPs are incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): The most up-to-date methods, systems, techniques, and production processes available to achieve the greatest feasible emission reductions for given regulated air pollutants and processes. BACT is a requirement of NSR (New Source Review) and PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration) under the federal Clean Air Act. BACT, as used in federal law under PSD, is defined as an emission limitation based on the maximum degree of emission reductions allowable taking into account energy, environmental and economic impacts and other costs [CAA Section 169(3)]. The term BACT as used in state law means an emission limitation that will achieve the lowest achievable emission rates, which means

the most stringent of either the most stringent emission limits contained in the SIP for the class or category of source, (unless it is demonstrated that the limitation is not achievable) or the most stringent emission limit achieved in practice by that class in category of source. "BACT" under state law is more stringent than federal BACT and is equivalent to federal LAER (lowest achievable emission rate) which applies to NSR permit actions.

Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT): An air emission limitation that applies to existing sources and is based on the maximum degree of reduction achievable, taking into account environmental, energy, and economic impacts by each class or category of source.

Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (T-BACT): The most stringent emissions limitation or control technique which:

- has been achieved in practice for such permit unit category or class of source; or
- is any other emissions limitation or control technique, including process and equipment changes of basic and control equipment, found by the Executive Officer to be technologically feasible for such class or category of sources, or for a specific source.

Best Design Practice for Transit: An approach to transit planning that requires adherence to nationally recognized industry standards for physical facilities and services.

Buffer Zone: An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

California Air Resources Board (CARB): The State's lead air quality agency, led by an eleven-member Governor-appointed board. It is responsible for attainment and maintenance of the State and federal air quality standards, and is chiefly responsible for motor vehicle pollution control. It oversees county and regional air pollution management programs.

California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS): Standards set by the State of California for the maximum levels of air pollutants which can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare. These are more stringent than NAAQS.

California Clean Air Act (CCAA): A California law passed in 1988 which provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations. A major element of the Act is the requirement that local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts in violation of state ambient air quality standards must prepare attainment plans which identify air quality problems, causes, trends, and actions to be taken to attain and maintain California's air quality standards by the

earliest practicable date utilizing all feasible measures and an expeditious adoption schedule.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas resulting from the incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. CO interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the body's tissues and results in numerous adverse health effects. Over 80% of the CO emitted in urban areas is contributed by motor vehicles. CO is a criteria air pollutant.

Congestion Management Plan (CMP): A state mandated program (Government Code Section 65089a), that requires each county to prepare a plan to relieve congestion and reduce air pollution.

Criteria Pollutant: An air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set. Examples include: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The term "criteria air pollutants" derives from the requirement that the U.S. EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. The U.S. EPA and CARB periodically review new scientific data and may propose revisions to the standards as a result.

Environmental Justice: California state law defines environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (California Government Code section 65040.12). The AQMD defines environmental justice as equitable environmental policymaking and enforcement to protect the health of all residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution.

Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA): The United States agency charged with setting policy and guidelines, and carrying out legal mandates for the protection of national interests in environmental resources.

Federal Clean Air Act (CAA): A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990 which forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, air toxics standards, acid rain control measures, and enforcement provisions.

Fugitive Dust: Dust particles which are introduced into the air through certain activities such as soil cultivation, off-road vehicles, or any vehicles operating on open fields or dirt roadways.

Fugitive Dust Control Plan: A document that describes fugitive dust sources at a site and the corresponding control measures.

Growth Management Plan: A plan for a given geographical region containing demographic projections (i.e., housing units, employment, and population) through some specified point in time, and which provides recommendations for local governments to better manage growth and reduce projected environmental impacts.

Hybrid Vehicles: Hybrid electric motor vehicles may operate using both electric and gasoline-powered motors. Emissions from hybrid electric motor vehicles can be substantially lower than conventionally powered motor vehicles.

Indirect Source: Any facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which generates or attracts mobile source activity that results in emissions of any pollutant (or precursor) for which there is a state ambient air quality standard. Examples include employment sites, shopping centers, sports facilities, housing developments, airports, commercial and industrial development, and parking lots and garages.

Jobs/Housing Balance (Jobs/Housing Ratio): The availability of housing for employees. The jobs/housing ratio divides the number of jobs in an area by the total number of dwelling units. Jobs/housing balance is an indicator of the number of residents in an area that must travel outside their commute-shed for work. No jobs/housing ratio is recognized in state, regional or local plans and policies. However, SCAG considers South Coast Air Basin communities to be jobs –rich if they have more than 1.29 jobs per dwelling unit, and housing-rich if they have less than 1.0 jobs per household.

Land Use Recycling: Changing historic land uses to meet the changing needs and priorities of a community. For example, commercial or industrial land areas that are “recycled” to housing, mixed use or institutional use in order to facilitate and be consistent with the current and future needs of a community.

Lead: A gray-white metal that is soft, malleable, ductile, and resistant to corrosion. Sources of lead resulting in concentrations in the air include industrial sources and crystal weathering of soils followed by fugitive dust emissions. Health effects from exposure to lead include brain and kidney damage and learning disabilities. Lead is the only substance which is currently listed as both a criteria air pollutant and a toxic air contaminant.

Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT): Federal emissions limitations based on the best demonstrated control technology or practices in similar sources to be applied to major sources emitting one or more federal hazardous air pollutants.

Mixed Use: Properties on which various uses such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A “single site” may include contiguous properties.

Mobile Sources: Sources of air pollution such as automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, off-road vehicles, boats and airplanes (contrast with stationary sources).

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): Standards established by the USEPA that apply for outdoor air throughout the country. There are two types of NAAQS. Primary standards set limits to protect public health and secondary standards set limits to protect the environment and public welfare.

New Source Review (NSR): A program used in development of permits for new or modified industrial facilities which are in a non-attainment area, and which emit non-attainment criteria air pollutants. The two major requirements of NSR are Best Available Control Technology and Emissions Offset.

Nitrogen Oxides: Oxides of Nitrogen, NO_x. A general term pertaining to compounds of nitric acid (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and other oxides of nitrogen. Nitrogen oxides are typically created during combustion processes, and are major contributors to smog formation and acid deposition. NO₂ is a criteria air pollutant, and may result in numerous adverse health effects. It absorbs blue light, resulting in a brownish-red cast to the atmosphere and reduced visibility.

Non-Attainment Area: A geographic area identified by the USEPA and/or CARB as not meeting either NAAQS or CAAQS standards for a given pollutant.

Opacity Regulations: Rules, laws, and regulations that require the measurement of the amount of light obscured by particle pollution in the atmosphere and limit the amount of allowable emissions from pollution sources. Opacity is used as an indicator of changes in performance of particulate control systems.

Ozone: A strong smelling, pale blue, reactive toxic chemical gas consisting of three oxygen atoms. It is a product of the photochemical process involving the sun's energy. Ozone exists in the upper atmosphere ozone layer as well as at the earth's surface. Ozone at the earth's surface causes numerous adverse health effects and is a criteria air pollutant. It is a major component of urban smog.

Paratransit: Transportation systems such as jitneys, car pooling, van pooling, taxi services and dial-a-ride services.

Particulate matter (PM): Solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols.

- **Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) in size:** A major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols. The size of the particles (10 microns or smaller, about 0.0004 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs in the lungs where they may be deposited, resulting in adverse health effects. PM₁₀ also causes visibility reduction and is a criteria air pollutant.

- **Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) in size:** A major pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles, generally soot and aerosols. The size of the particles (2.5 microns or smaller, about 0.0001 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs deep in the lungs where they may cause adverse health effects, as noted in several recent studies. PM_{2.5} also causes visibility reduction.

Permit: Written authorization from a government agency (e.g., air quality management district) that allows for the construction and/or operation of an emissions generating facility or its equipment within certain specified limits.

Redevelop: To demolish existing buildings; or to increase the overall floor area existing on a property; or both; irrespective of whether a change occurs in land use.

Rezoning: An amendment to the map and/or text of a zoning ordinance to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

Sensitive Receptor (Sensitive Individual): Those segments of a population such as children, athletes, elderly, and sick that are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the population at large.

Sensitive Sites: Land uses where sensitive receptors are most likely to spend time, including schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities.

Setback: In zoning parlance, a setback is the minimum amount of space required between a lot line and a building line.

State Implementation Plan (SIP): A document prepared by each state describing existing air quality conditions and measures which will be taken to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards (see AQMP).

Smog Check Program: A motor vehicle inspection program implemented by the California Bureau of Automotive Repair. It is designed to identify vehicles in need of maintenance and to assure the effectiveness of their emission control systems on a biennial basis. Enacted in 1979 and strengthened in 1990.

Station Car: A vehicle that operates at transit stations for the use of patrons of these transit services. The availability of station cars facilitates and encourages the use of mass transit systems.

Stationary Sources: Non-mobile sources such as power plants, refineries, and manufacturing facilities which emit air pollutants.

South Coast basin: Includes all of Orange county and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂): A strong smelling, colorless gas that is formed by the combustion of fossil fuels. Power plants, which may use coal or oil high in sulfur content, can be major sources of SO₂. SO₂ and other sulfur oxides contribute to the problem of acid deposition. SO₂ is a criteria pollutant.

Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC): An air pollutant, identified in regulation by the CARB, which may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. TACs are considered under a different regulatory process (California Health and Safety Code section 39650 et seq.) than pollutants subject to CAAQS. Health effects due to TACs may occur at extremely low levels, and it is typically difficult to identify levels of exposure which do not produce adverse health effects.

Transportation System Management (TSM): A comprehensive strategy developed to address the problems caused by additional development, increased vehicle trips, and a shortfall in transportation capacity. Transportation Systems Management focuses on more efficiently utilizing existing highway and transit systems rather than expanding them. TSM measures are characterized by their low cost and quick implementation time frame, such as computerized traffic signals, metered freeway ramps, and one-way streets.

Visibility: A measurement of the ability to see and identify objects at different distances. Visibility reduction from air pollution is often due to the presence of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, as well as particulate matter.

Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV): Vehicles which produce no emissions from the on-board source of power (e.g. an electric or fuel cell vehicle).