

South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Notice of Public Consultation Meeting

**REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY COACHELLA VALLEY FOR THE  
2008 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD AND  
THE UPDATED MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS BUDGETS**

Friday, September 23, 2022  
1:00 PM

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, the public hearings will only be conducted via videoconferencing and telephone. Please follow the instructions below to join the meeting remotely.

Webinar Meeting Link: <https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/98094014628>

Meeting ID: 980 9401 4628 (applies to all)

To participate by phone, or for audio by phone, dial: +1-669-900-6833

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled the Public Consultation Meeting for the purpose of soliciting information, comments, and suggestions from the public, affected businesses, and stakeholders regarding the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) and the updated Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs). The South Coast AQMD Governing Board will consider the reclassification request for Coachella Valley and the updated MVEBs at the South Coast AQMD Governing Board meeting on Friday, November 4, 2022 (subject to change). Upon the Board approval, the package will be submitted to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) via California Air Resources Board (CARB).

**BACKGROUND**

The Coachella Valley is classified as a severe-15 nonattainment area for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard, with an attainment date of July 20, 2027. Nonattainment areas for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter are subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) Transportation Conformity, which requires that emissions from motor vehicle activities not interfere with the State's effort to attain or maintain NAAQS. More specifically, the total emissions expected from transit and highway vehicles need to be the same as or lower than the MVEB, the on-road motor vehicles emissions included in the latest applicable SIP.

Since approval of the SIP for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS, an on-road mobile emissions model has been updated and the updated USEPA-approved model estimates higher emissions for the same vehicular activities. This leads to new vehicular emissions exceeding the approved MVEB and are no longer consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Therefore, no new transportation conformity determinations can be made, resulting in a conformity lockdown for the Coachella Valley. Under a conformity lockdown, only projects in the current conforming Regional Transportation Plan/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (RTP/FTIP) and exempt projects can move forward. According to Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), over \$26 billion worth of transportation projects are on hold due to the conformity lockdown.

To resolve the conformity lockdown, South Coast AQMD seeks to reclassify Coachella Valley from severe-15 to extreme for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard. This reclassification will provide an opportunity to update the MVEB using the updated model. The reclassification will extend attainment by up to 5 years. There are no adverse regulatory or planning impacts expected from this action as the Coachella Valley is already classified as an extreme nonattainment area for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. South Coast AQMD will also need to develop a new SIP demonstrating attainment as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than July 20, 2032.

### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL**

The reclassification of the Coachella Valley to extreme nonattainment for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard provides an opportunity to revise the MVEB and resolve the current transportation conformity lockdown. The Request to Reclassify Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard and the Updated MVEBs includes the following:

- A request to bump-up the Coachella Valley's nonattainment status for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard from severe-15 to extreme;
- Transportation conformity requirements and MVEB;
- Ozone air quality trends in Coachella Valley;
- Baseline emissions inventory for base year (2011), Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) interim milestone years (2023, 2026 and 2029) and attainment year (2031);
- RFP demonstration for milestone years; and
- Updated MVEB.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

The following supporting document will be available starting on September 16, 2022, on South Coast AQMD's website under the Air Quality Management Plan section 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).

- Draft Staff Report for Request to Reclassify Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-hour Ozone Standard and the Updated MVEBs

Copies of the above document may also be reviewed in the South Coast AQMD library or by contacting:

Derrick Alatorre  
Deputy Executive Officer / Public Advisor  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
Phone: (909) 396-2432  
Email: [PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov](mailto:PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov)

## **SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS OR COMMENTS**

You are invited to attend the public consultation meeting. You may also send questions, comments, documents, or other information relevant to the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley to:

Sang-Mi Lee, Ph.D.  
Planning and Rules Manager  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
Phone: (909) 396-3169  
Email: [AQMPteam@aqmd.gov](mailto:AQMPteam@aqmd.gov)

Written comments relating to the Request to Reclassify Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard and Extreme Area RFP SIP should be submitted **no later than Tuesday, October 18, 2022.**

The Governing Board meeting to consider approval of the voluntary Request to Reclassify Coachella Valley for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard and the Updated MVEBs is scheduled for Friday, November 4, at 9 a.m. (subject to change) in the Dr. William A. Burke Auditorium at South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765. The meeting will be conducted through a hybrid format of in-person and/or virtual attendance via videoconferencing and by telephone with opportunities for public comment. Given the health and safety concerns, auditorium seating availability may be limited, and meeting format may be changed to full remote via webcast. Please refer to the South Coast AQMD's website for information regarding the format of the Public Hearing, updates if the meeting is changed to a full remote via webcast format, and details on how to participate: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility**

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the public consultation meeting. The meeting materials 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. Requests can be sent to the Public Advisor, South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA, 91765-4178, at (909) 396-2432 (for TTY, 909-396-3560) or send the request to [PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov](mailto:PublicAdvisor@aqmd.gov) or [PICrequests@aqmd.gov](mailto:PICrequests@aqmd.gov).