



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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Office of the Executive Officer

Wayne Nastri

909.396.2100

October 13, 2026

Hon. Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Submittal of South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS

Dear Dr. Cliff,

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is submitting the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS (South Coast Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans) to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for its approval and submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Adopted on August 7, 2026, the South Coast Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans include redesignation requests and maintenance plans for the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS or standards) and a second maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS. South Coast AQMD also requests that CARB concur with the withdrawal of the 2021 PM₁₀ Maintenance Plan for the South Coast Air Basin and submit the withdrawal request to U.S. EPA. The second maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS supersedes the maintenance plan submitted to U.S. EPA via CARB on July 22, 2021.

The South Coast Air Basin (Basin) is a "moderate" nonattainment area for the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Due to extensive regulatory efforts, PM_{2.5} levels have declined significantly and the Basin has consistently met these standards since 2013. In July 2016, U.S. EPA finalized a Clean Data Determination (CDD) that the Basin attained the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. To be redesignated to attainment, the South Coast Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans seek to demonstrate that the requirements described in Sections 107(d)(3)(E) and 175A of the Clean Air Act (CAA) have been fulfilled. Maintenance plans, showing that the Basin will continue to meet these standards for at least 10 years after redesignation, are also included.

In 2013, U.S. EPA approved a redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM₁₀ standard. The Basin has since remained below this standard, provided that potential exceptional events like wind-blown dust and wildfires are excluded. Under Section 175A(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), a second maintenance plan must be submitted eight years after redesignation to demonstrate continued attainment. To fulfill this requirement, South Coast AQMD submitted a second maintenance plan in 2021.

However, U.S. EPA deferred action on the plan due to an unusually high PM10 measurement in 2018 at Long Beach–Hudson, which was directly impacted by nearby construction activities. In 2022, South Coast AQMD resumed PM10 monitoring in Long Beach to address U.S. EPA’s concern. This SIP revision includes a second PM10 maintenance plan, which extends the demonstration of continued attainment through 2033, 20 years after the Basin was redesignated to attainment. This second maintenance plan for the 1987 PM10 NAAQS supersedes the 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan for the South Coast Air Basin submitted to U.S. EPA via CARB on July 22, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (909) 396-3131 or Dr. Sarah Rees, Deputy Executive Officer of Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation at (909) 396-2856.

Sincerely,



Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- A. Board Letter
- B. Resolution
- C. Final Staff Report for South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS
- D. Notice of Exemption from CEQA
- E. Notice of Public Hearing Proof of Publication
- F. Minutes from the August 7, 2026 Public Hearing

cc (email):

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Karina O’Connor, U.S. EPA, Region IX
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