

RESOLUTION NO. 26-18

A Resolution of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board determining that the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS, are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A Resolution of the South Coast AQMD Governing Board adopting the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS, which includes redesignation requests and maintenance plans for the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS, and the second maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM10 NAAQS for the South Coast Air Basin.

A Resolution of the South Coast AQMD Governing Board directing staff to forward the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for approval and subsequent submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion into the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS are considered a “project” as defined by the CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines after conducting a review of the proposed project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA, that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that the proposed project is comprised of administrative updates to meet federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements without proposing new requirements or new control measures that would result in additional physical modifications. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have any significant adverse effects on the environment and is therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that the proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, because the proposed project intended to further protect or enhance the environment; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has determined that there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions, apply to the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD staff has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the proposed project, that is completed in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM2.5 and PM10 NAAQS (Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans) and supporting documentation, including but not limited to, the Notice of Exemption and Draft Final Staff Report, were presented to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, and the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has reviewed and considered this information, and has taken and considered staff testimony and public comments prior to approving the project; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) is a “moderate” nonattainment area for the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In July 2016, U.S. EPA determined that the Basin attained the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS based on 2011–2013 monitoring data. Since 2013, the Basin has continued meeting the standards excluding potential exceptional events; and

WHEREAS, the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans include the required elements to be redesignated to attainment – a demonstration that the Basin is attaining the standards, attainment is due to permanent and enforceable emission reductions, the Basin has an approved SIP and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act (CAA), and maintenance plans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CAA Section 107(d)(3)(E), South Coast AQMD developed the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans and demonstrated that the Basin will continue to attain the 1997 annual and 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS through 2039; and

WHEREAS, the Basin was a “serious” nonattainment area for the 1987 24-hour PM10 NAAQS. Effective July 26, 2013, U.S. EPA redesignated the Basin to attainment for the standard and approved the first maintenance plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant the requirement for a second maintenance plan under federal CAA Section 175A(b), South Coast AQMD adopted and submitted the Final 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan for the South Coast Air Basin (2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan) to U.S. EPA via CARB. However, U.S. EPA deferred action on the 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan due to high PM10 levels measured at a poorly located monitor directly impacted by nearby construction activity; and

WHEREAS, since being redesignated to attainment, the Basin has not exceeded the 1987 24-hour PM10 standard at any monitoring site after excluding potential exceptional events; and

WHEREAS, the 1987 24-hour PM10 NAAQS portion of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans replaces the 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance plans included in the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans seek to satisfy the requirements of CAA Section 175A and include an emissions inventory, maintenance demonstration, verification of continued attainment, transportation conformity, and contingency provisions; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance demonstration shows that the Basin will continue to meet the 1997 PM2.5 annual and 24-hour standards through 2039 and the 1987 24-hour PM10 standard through 2033, based on ongoing emission reductions from already adopted rules and regulations. These maintenance horizon years are selected to satisfy the requirements of federal CAA Sections 175A(a) and 175A(b), providing for at least 10 years of maintenance following redesignation and a subsequent 10-year extension, for a total of 20 years of continued attainment; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for were released for public review and comment on May 14, 2026, with a 30-day comment period until June 16, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public consultation meeting was held on May 20, 2026 to solicit comments and suggestions from the public, affected businesses, and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has determined that no Socioeconomic Impact Assessment is required under Health and Safety Code Sections 40440.8 and 40728.5, because the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans are not rules or regulations in the meaning of those statutes, and further no socioeconomic impacts will result from the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing has been properly noticed in accordance with all provisions regarding notice of revisions to the SIP in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 51, Section 51.102; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has held a public hearing in accordance with all provisions of law; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD specifies the Planning and Rules Manager of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans as the custodian of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the

adoption of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans is based, which are located at the South Coast AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Coast AQMD Governing Board does hereby determine, pursuant to the authority granted by law, that the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment. No exceptions to the application of the categorical exemption as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions, apply to the proposed project. This information was presented to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, whose members exercised their independent judgment and reviewed, considered, and approved the information therein prior to acting on the South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, whose members reviewed, considered, and approved the information contained in the documents listed herein, adopt the redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, the redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS, and the second maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS for the South Coast Air Basin dated August 7, 2026 consisting of the document entitled South Coast Air Basin Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS as amended by the final changes, if applicable, set forth by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Coast AQMD commits to implement contingency provisions as included in the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans, if the Basin violates the 1997 PM_{2.5} or 1987 PM₁₀ standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to CAA Section 175A(b), the South Coast AQMD commits to submit a second maintenance plan for the 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard eight years after U.S. EPA redesignates the Basin to attainment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Coast AQMD Governing Board directs the Executive Officer to work with CARB and the U.S. EPA and take appropriate action to resolve any completeness or approvability issues that may arise regarding the SIP submission; and

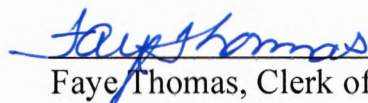
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Officer is hereby directed to forward a copy of the redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 1997 annual PM2.5 NAAQS, the redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 1997 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS, and the second maintenance plan for the 1987 24-hour PM10 NAAQS for the South Coast Air Basin to CARB for approval and subsequent submission to the U.S. EPA for inclusion into the SIP.

AYES: Cacciotti, Lock Dawson, Delgado, McCallon,
Mitchell, Nguyen, Olmos, Padilla-Campos,
Rodriguez, and Rutland

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hagman, Nazarian, and Perez

DATE: August 7, 2026



Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Boards