

## **RESOLUTION NO. 24-16**

**A Resolution of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board determining that the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard (PM2.5 Plan) qualifies as a later activity within the scope of the program approved earlier for the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the 2016 AQMP per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15168 (c), and the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2022 AQMP adequately describes the activity for the purposes of CEQA such that no new environmental document is required.**

**A Resolution of the South Coast AQMD approving the PM2.5 Plan and directing staff to forward South Coast AQMD's PM2.5 Plan to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for approval and submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).**

**WHEREAS,** the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that the PM2.5 Plan is considered a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

**WHEREAS,** the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that: 1) the PM2.5 Plan implements a selected suite of control measures that were previously adopted in the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP; 2) the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP evaluated the control measures which are being relied upon for the PM2.5 Plan, and analyzed their potential environmental impacts; 3) no subsequent EIR would be required per CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 (c)(2) because there are no new or modified physical changes that would result from implementing the PM2.5 Plan which were not previously analyzed in the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP; and 4) the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP can be relied on for CEQA compliance; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that the PM2.5 Plan is a later activity within the scope of the program approved earlier in the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP per CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 (c)(2), and the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP adequately describe the activity associated with implementing the PM2.5 Plan for the purposes of CEQA such that no new environmental document will be required; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Coast AQMD Governing Board finds and determines that based on substantial evidence in the record and in accordance with the noticing requirements in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 (e), the PM2.5 Plan qualifies as

a later activity within the scope of the program approved earlier for the 2022 AQMP and 2016 AQMP, and the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP adequately describe the activity for the purposes of CEQA; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Coast Air Basin is a “serious” nonattainment area for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard with an attainment date of December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, a plan to attain the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 2025 was submitted to the U.S. EPA in 2017. However, that plan was withdrawn in 2023 due to U.S. EPA’s delay in considering the plan and subsequent availability of new near-road air quality monitoring data, triggering the need to develop a revised plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan seeks a five-year extension of the attainment date to 2030, as allowed by Clean Air Act Section 188(e), to address challenges associated with near-road air quality monitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Coast Air Basin is expected to attain the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard in 2030 with the implementation of the 2022 AQMP strategy and limited additional controls to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> and its precursor emissions as identified in this PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan includes an expeditious adoption and implementation schedule of control measures in a cost-effective, feasible, and targeted fashion; and

**WHEREAS**, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan addresses applicable federal CAA requirements, including the implementation of Best Available Control Measures (BACM), Most Stringent Measures (MSM), a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) demonstration, a comprehensive emissions inventory, a control strategy, an attainment demonstration, contingency measures, quantitative milestones, a transportation conformity budget, and other “serious” nonattainment area SIP requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Coast AQMD held three AQMP Advisory Group meetings and two Scientific, Technical, and Modeling Peer Review Advisory Group meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Draft PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan was released for public review and comment on March 22, 2024 with a 46-day comment period from March 22, 2024 to May 7, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, four regional public hearings were held on April 23, 24, 25, and May 1, 2024 to discuss the Draft PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan. Notice was given of these hearings pursuant to the requirements under the Health and Safety Code Section 40466; and

**WHEREAS**, the Draft Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for the PM2.5 Plan, provided in Appendix VII of the PM2.5 Plan, was prepared and released for public review and comment on May 2, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board has considered the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for the PM2.5 Plan and has made a good faith effort to minimize any adverse impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing has been properly noticed in accordance with all provisions of Health and Safety Code Section 40466 and 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 PM2.5 Plan as the custodian of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the adoption of the PM2.5 Plan 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 PM2.5 Plan qualifies as a later activity within the scope of the program approved earlier for the 2022 AQMP and the 2016 AQMP per CEQA Guidelines 15168 (c), and the Final Program EIR for the 2022 AQMP and the Final Program EIR for the 2016 AQMP adequately describe the activity for the purposes of CEQA such that no new environmental document will be required. This information was presented to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, whose members exercised their independent judgement and reviewed, considered, and approved the information therein prior to acting on the proposed project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Coast AQMD will develop, adopt, submit, and implement applicable control measures in Tables 4-2 and 4-3 of Chapter 4 in the PM2.5 Plan as expeditiously as possible in order to meet or exceed the commitments identified in Table 4-12 of the PM2.5 Plan to attain the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard, and to substitute any other measures as necessary to make up any emission reduction shortfall; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proposed commitment for emission reductions is for total aggregate emissions reductions that may be achieved through the measures identified in the PM2.5 Plan, alternative measures, incentive programs, and actual emission decreases; 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, adopts the PM2.5 Plan dated June 7, 2024 consisting of the document entitled South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard 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 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 this Resolution and the PM2.5 Plan to CARB for approval and subsequent submittal to the U.S. EPA for inclusion in the SIP.

AYES: Cacciotti, Delgado, Hagman, Kracov, McCallon,  
Perez, Raman, Rodriguez, and Solache

NOES: None

ABSENT: Lock Dawson, Do, Mitchell, and Padilla-Campos

DATE: June 7, 2024

Faye Thomas  
Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Boards