



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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Office of the Executive Officer

Wayne Nastri

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June 21, 2024

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 Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard

Dear Dr. Cliff,

South Coast AQMD is submitting the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PM2.5 Plan) 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). The PM2.5 Plan, adopted on June 7, 2024, demonstrates attainment of the 2012 annual PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (standard) in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) by 2030.

The Basin is in "serious" nonattainment for the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard. A plan to attain this standard was originally submitted to U.S. EPA in 2017 but U.S. EPA delayed acting on the plan. In the meantime, near-road air quality monitoring data became eligible for inclusion in SIP attainment demonstrations and showed the highest level of the annual PM2.5 in the Basin. U.S. EPA indicated a need to include the new data in the attainment demonstration. To accommodate the request and satisfy other "serious" area requirements, South Coast AQMD withdrew the submitted plan in 2023 and developed this new PM2.5 Plan. This plan must be submitted to U.S. EPA by December 26, 2024 to avoid sanctions.¹

The PM2.5 Plan has been developed to demonstrate how the Basin will attain the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard and address federal CAA requirements. Air quality modeling demonstrates that attainment by December 31, 2025 would be impractical and the PM2.5 Plan therefore requests a five-year extension of the attainment date to December 31, 2030, as allowed by CAA Section 188(e). The Basin is expected to attain the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard by 2030 by continuing to implement the 2022 AQMP control strategy. Overall, NOx and PM2.5 emissions are expected to decline by 54 and 6 percent, respectively, between 2018 and 2030, which will be sufficient to lead the Basin into attainment of the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard.

¹ 88 FR 34093, 89 FR 5770

The PM2.5 Plan seeks to comply with all CAA requirements for “serious” nonattainment area seeking a five-year extension of the attainment date. Among those is a requirement to demonstrate the implementation of Most Stringent Measures (MSM), which is defined as the maximum degree of emission reduction that has been required or achieved from a source or source category in any other attainment plans or in practice in any other states. In addition to the 2022 AQMP NOx control measures, this PM2.5 Plan includes South Coast AQMD’s commitment to adopt and implement four control measures to satisfy MSM requirements. These measures include lowering the permitting thresholds for dairies and poultry farms (BCM-08), requiring composting of chipped and ground greenwaste prior to land application (BCM-10), lowering the applicability threshold for chain-driven charbroilers to install and operate catalytic oxidizers (BCM-12), and modifications to South Coast AQMD’s residential wood-burning curtailment program (BCM-18).

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. Signed Board Letter
- B. Approved Resolution
- C. Final South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard (including Appendices)
- D. Notice of Regional Public Hearings Proof of Publication
- E. Transcripts of the Regional Public Hearings
- F. Notice of Public Hearing Proof of Publication
- G. Transcript of the Public Hearing

cc (email):

Matthew Lakin, U.S. EPA, Region IX
Idalia Perez, U.S. EPA, Region IX
Ginger Vagenas, U.S. EPA, Region IX
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