



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

Public Consultation Meeting

May 20, 2026



Photo from <https://secretlosangeles.com/l-a-air-is-exceptionally-clear-now-that-millions-of-angerenos-are-staying-home/>

South Coast AQMD

Local air pollution control agency

- Oversees South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley
- Largest of the 35 local air agencies in CA and in the U.S.
- 10,743 square miles
- 17 million residents

Responsibilities

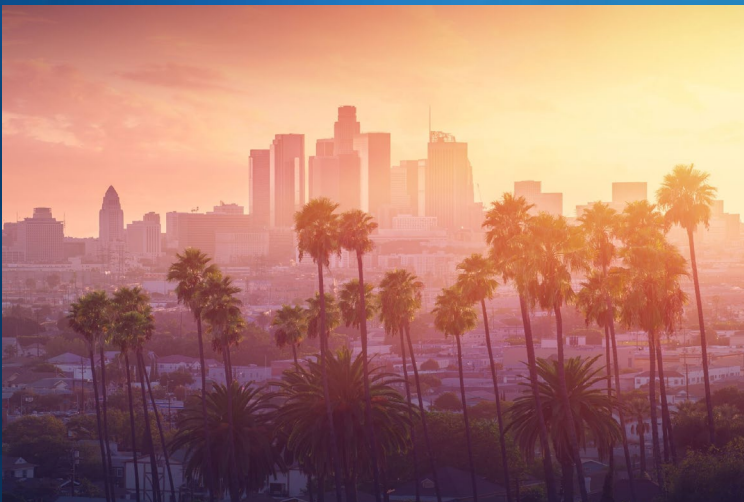
- Regulate emissions primarily from stationary sources
- Develop and implement plans to meet national air quality standards
- Permit and inspect 28,400 affected businesses
- Administer over \$100 million of incentive funding annually



Our Challenges



- ❖ Our region has historically suffered from some of the worst air quality in the United States
- ❖ We have made significant progress, but still suffer from poor air quality
 - ❑ Worst ozone (smog) in the nation
 - ❑ Among the worst PM2.5
 - ❑ Substantial challenges to meet most recent National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)



Outline

PM Background and Health Effects

Purpose of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans

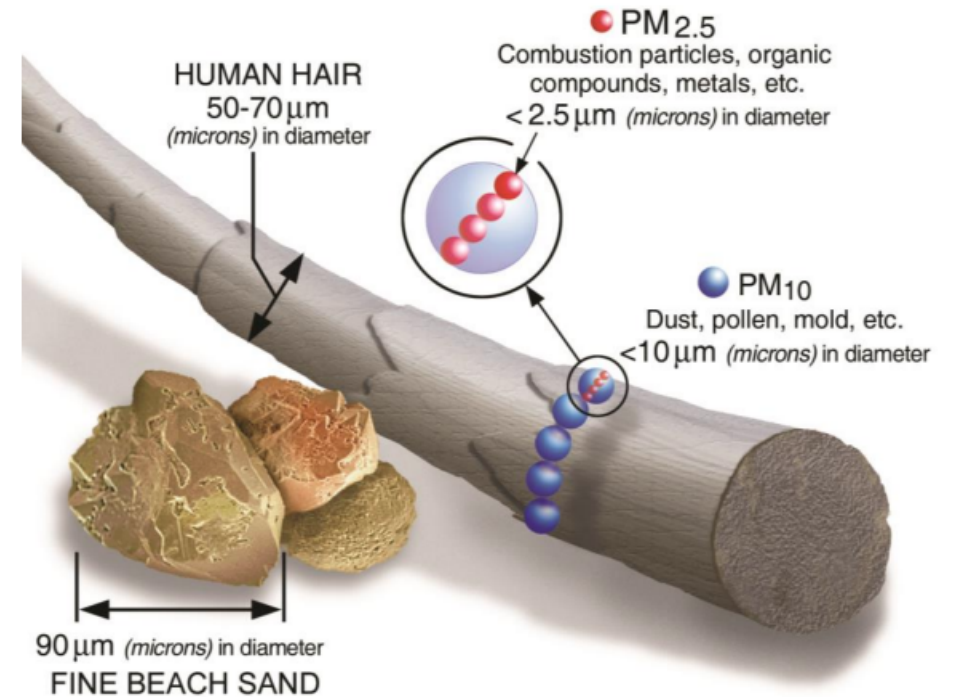
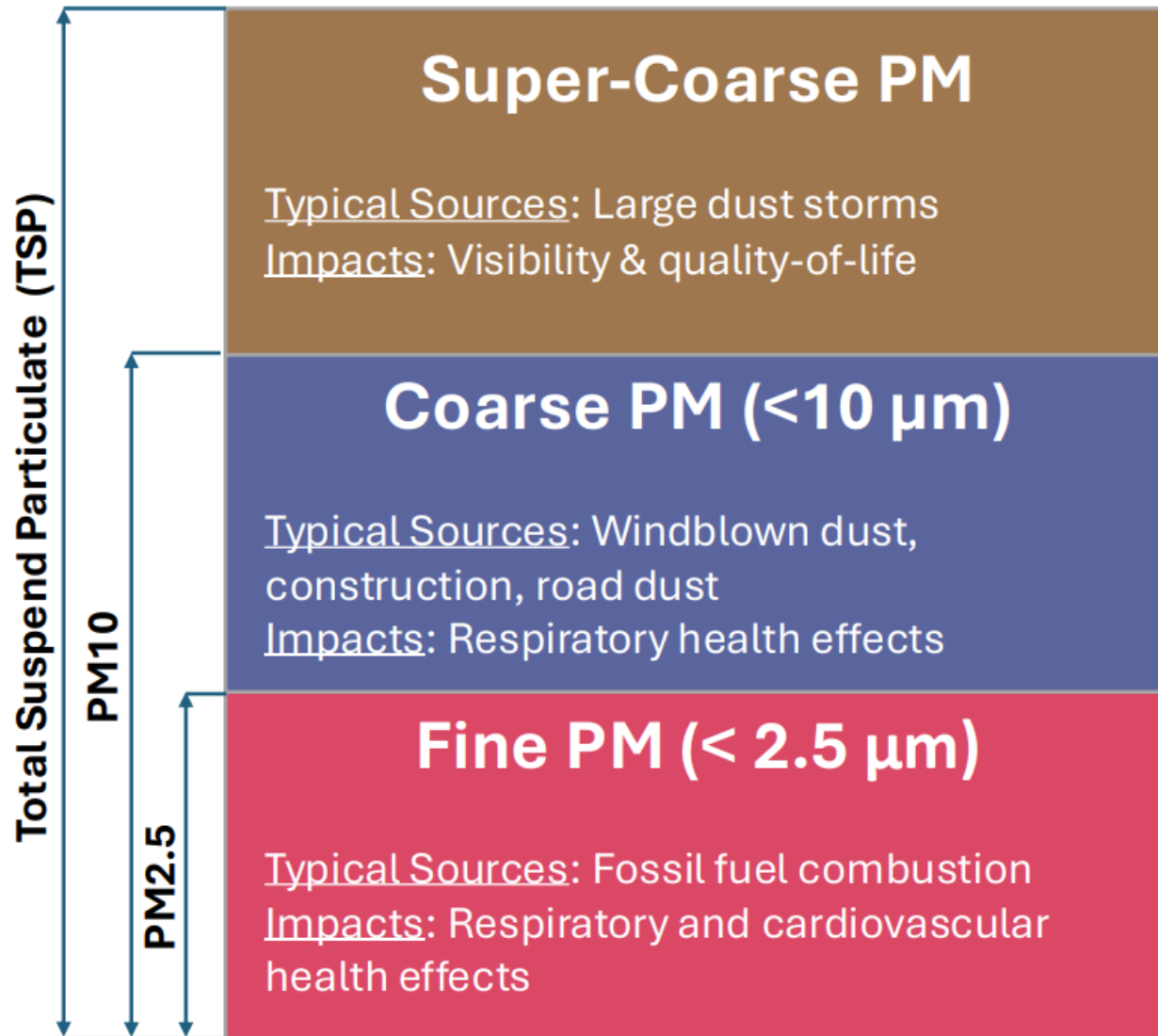
1997 Annual and 24-Hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

1987 24-Hour PM₁₀ NAAQS

Contingency Provisions for Maintenance Plans

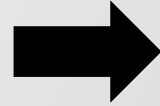
Conclusion and Next Steps

Particle Pollution Definitions

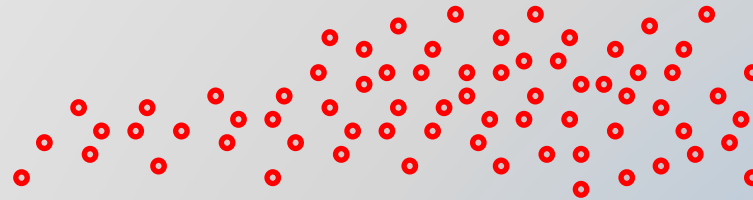


- No health-based standard for TSP as health effects are associated with PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀

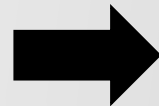
How Does PM2.5 Form?



**Primary PM2.5
(Directly Emitted)**



**Secondary PM2.5
(Formed in the Atmosphere)**



Gas phase emissions

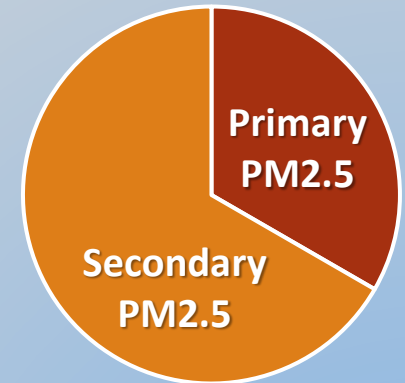


(VOCs, NO_x, SO_x, NH₃)

Atmospheric
Chemistry



**Secondary
PM2.5**



PM2.5 Health Effects

HEALTH IMPACTS OF PM2.5 EXPOSURE



Premature
Death



Nervous
System



Asthma



Cognition



Lung Cancer



Reproductive



Metabolic
System



Developmental

- ❖ PM2.5 is linked to **premature death** and adverse effects in **cardiovascular** and **respiratory** health
- ❖ Exposure to PM2.5 drives majority of public health costs due to air pollution in our region

Background



South Coast Air Basin has previously been designated as a nonattainment area for multiple older particulate matter (PM) standards



Air quality has improved significantly over recent decades, resulting in levels that meet these standards for several years



Once a nonattainment area meets the standard, the Clean Air Act allows areas to be redesignated as attainment. Planning obligations remain, but at a less stringent level – and are documented in Maintenance Plans.

PM Standards Included in this SIP* Revision

Air Quality Standard	Level	Current Attainment Status	Redesignation Request Included?	Maintenance Plan Included?
1987 24-hour PM10	150 µg/m ³	Attainment	No	Yes, 2nd maintenance plan
1997 Annual PM2.5	15 µg/m ³	Moderate nonattainment	Yes	Yes, 1st maintenance plan
1997 24-hour PM2.5	65 µg/m ³	Moderate nonattainment	Yes	Yes, 1st maintenance plan

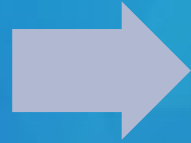
1997 Annual and 24-Hour PM2.5 NAAQS

- Redesignation Requests
- Maintenance Plans

History of South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status for the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS

April 2005

- Designated as nonattainment



August 2016

- U.S. EPA determined that the Basin met the standard



November 2021

- South Coast adopted a maintenance plan, but did not submit to U.S. EPA due to unusually high PM_{2.5} levels in Nov & Dec 2021
- Current plan includes only the 1997 standards

Requirements for Redesignation



1. Attainment of the Standard



2. Permanent and Enforceable Emission Reductions



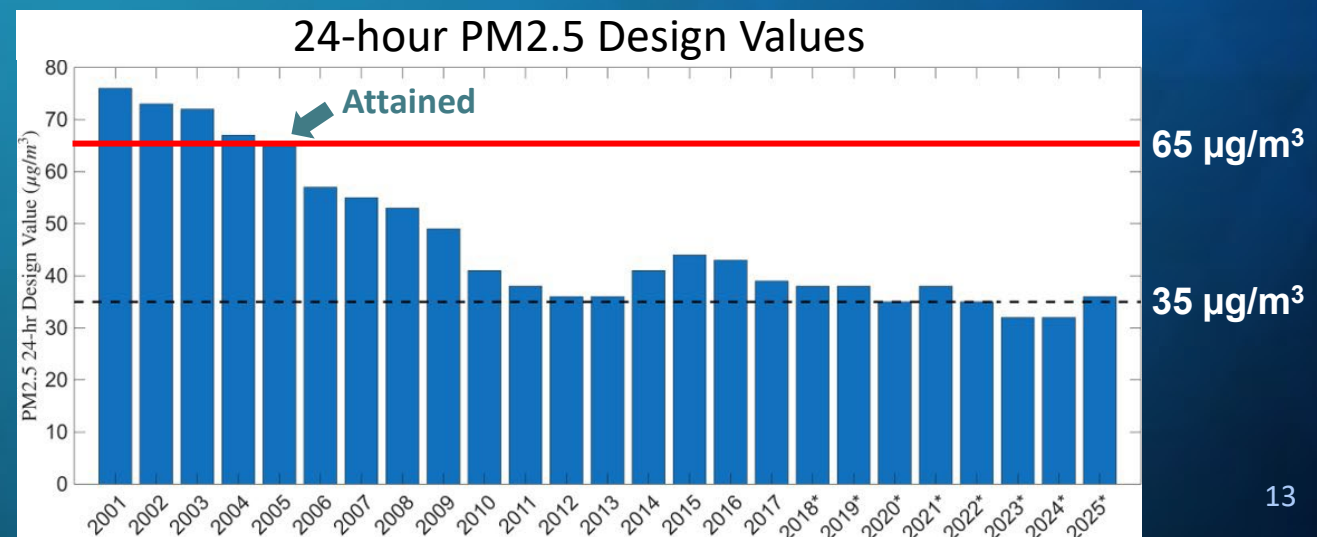
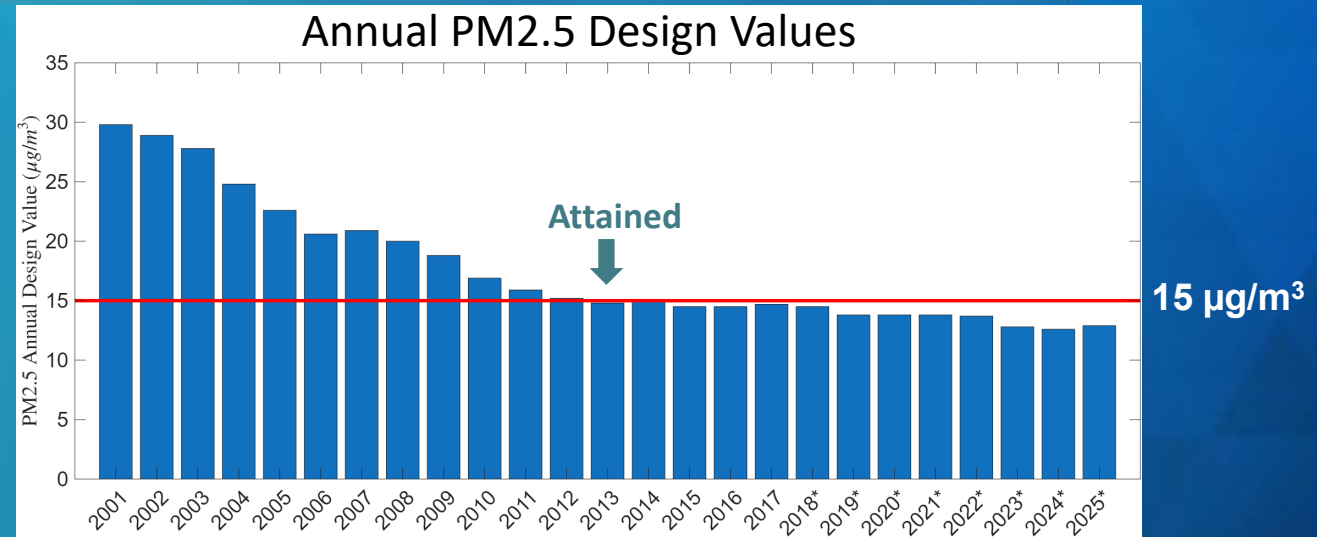
3. Approved SIP and Compliance with Clean Air Act



4. Approved Maintenance Plan

Requirements - 1. Attainment of the Standard

- In 2016, U.S. EPA determined that the Basin met both 24-hour and annual 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS
 - Clean Data Determination based on 2011-2013 monitoring data

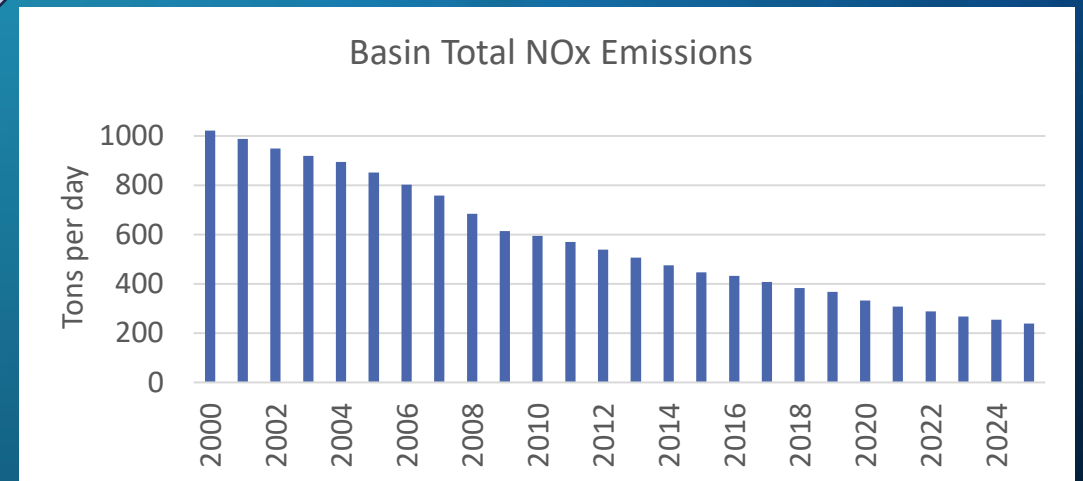
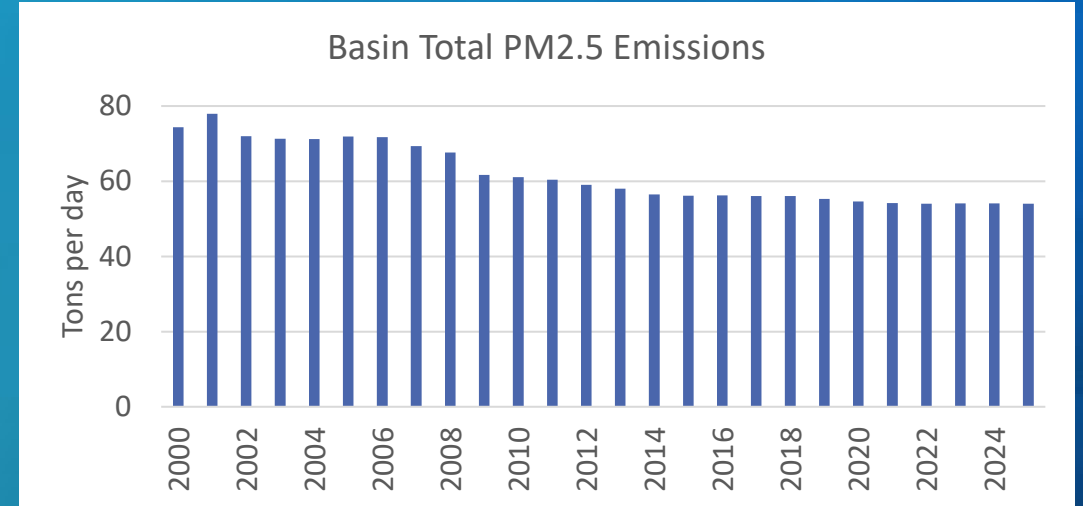
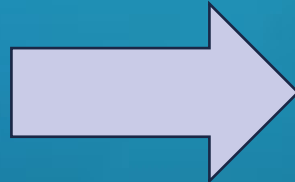


Requirements - 2. Permanent and Enforceable Emission Reductions

Selected Stationary Source Rules



Mobile Source Regulations



Requirements - 3. Approved SIP and Compliance with Clean Air Act Requirements

2007 AQMP (and associated 2011 SIP Revision)

- The latest comprehensive attainment plan for these standards
- Approved by U.S. EPA in 2011 and 2013

Compliance with Clean Air Act

- There are no subsequent findings from U.S. EPA of non-compliance with the Clean Air Act for this SIP

Requirements - 4. Maintenance Plan

Attainment
Inventory

Maintenance
Demonstration

Verification of
Continued
Attainment

Transportation
Conformity

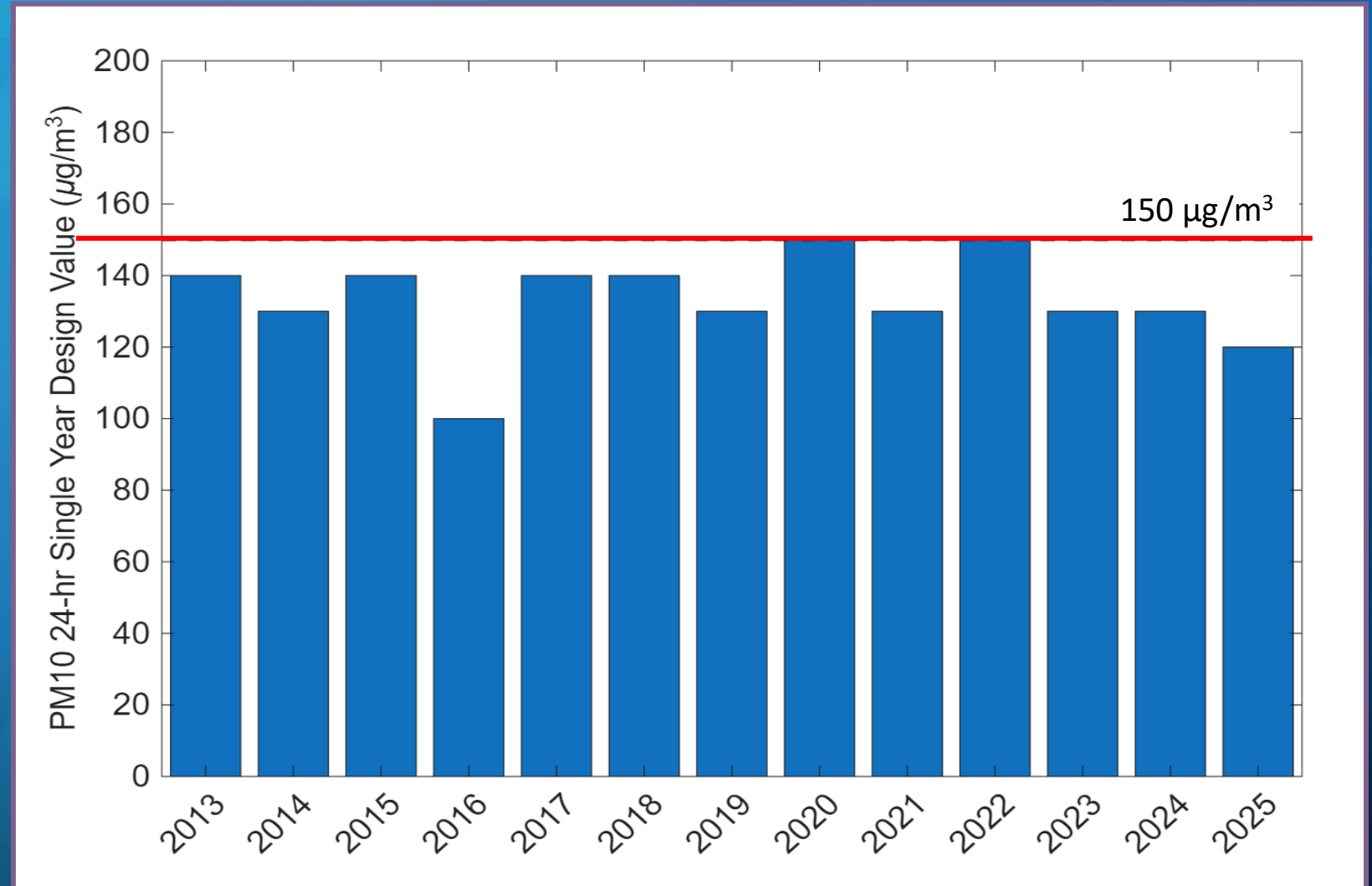
Contingency
Provisions

The Basin is anticipated to continue meeting the PM_{2.5} standards through 2039

1987 24-Hour PM10 Standard Second Maintenance Plan

24-hour PM10 Levels in the Basin

- Met the standard since 2013
- Potential exceptional events have been excluded from the 2013-2025 monitoring data



History of the 1987 24-Hour PM10 NAAQS

1990

- Original designation as nonattainment

2013

- U.S. EPA redesignated the Basin to attainment
- First maintenance plan

2026

- Second maintenance plan

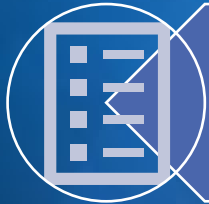
Second PM10 Maintenance Plan



Demonstrates continued attainment since 2013 after excluding potential exceptional events



The Basin is anticipated to continue meeting the standard through 2033, 20 years after redesignation to attainment



Includes other required elements
(e.g., transportation conformity, contingency provisions, etc.)



If the Basin maintains the PM10 levels at or below the standard for the 20-year period, there will be no further planning requirements for this standard

Contingency Provisions for Maintenance of the 1997 PM_{2.5} and 1987 PM₁₀ Standards

Maintenance Plan Contingency Provisions



Purpose:

- Provide corrective mechanism if the Basin experiences a violation

This is different from contingency measures (CMs) required for an area that:

- fails to meet a standard by the required date
 - fails to meet a major milestone (e.g., reasonable further progress requirements)
- These CMs are required to be already adopted rules with a triggering mechanism



PM2.5 and PM10 Contingency Provisions

South Coast intends to implement the following contingency actions, as needed, within 24 months from the trigger

1

Consult with regulated industry to explore voluntary or incentive-based emission reduction measures

2

Evaluate potential changes to the enforcement of existing rules

3

Consider amending rules such as Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices and/or other PM rules

4

Propose new rules to reduce PM emissions, if needed

Public Process



May 14

- Released Draft Staff Report

May 15

- Mobile Source Committee

May 20

- Public Consultation Meeting

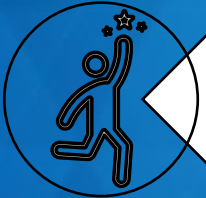
August 7

- Governing Board Hearing

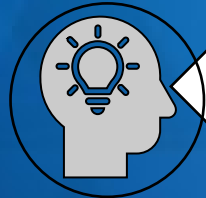
Fall 2026

- Submission to U.S. EPA via CARB

Conclusion



U.S. EPA determined that the South Coast Air Basin has attained the 1997 Annual and 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS



Staff developed Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans for the 1997 Annual and 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS



The South Coast Air Basin has continued to attain the PM₁₀ standard since redesignation



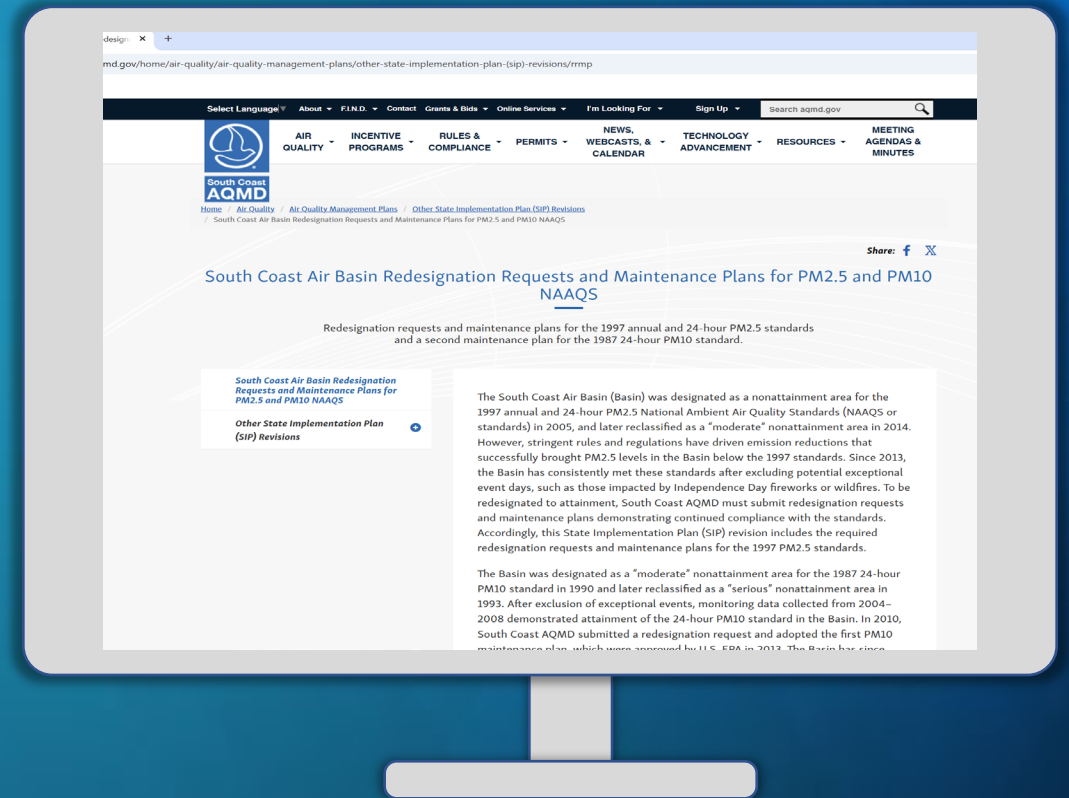
Staff developed the 2nd Maintenance Plan for the 1987 24-Hour PM₁₀ NAAQS

Supporting Documents

All supporting documents
are available on the
Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans
website:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/rrmp>

Point your smartphone
camera here to be
directed to the website



Submission of Comments

Please submit all written comments by Tuesday, June 16, 2026 to:



Email: AQMPteam@aqmd.gov

For more information, please contact:

PM Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plans

Sang-Mi Lee, Ph.D., Planning and Rules Manager at slee@aqmd.gov

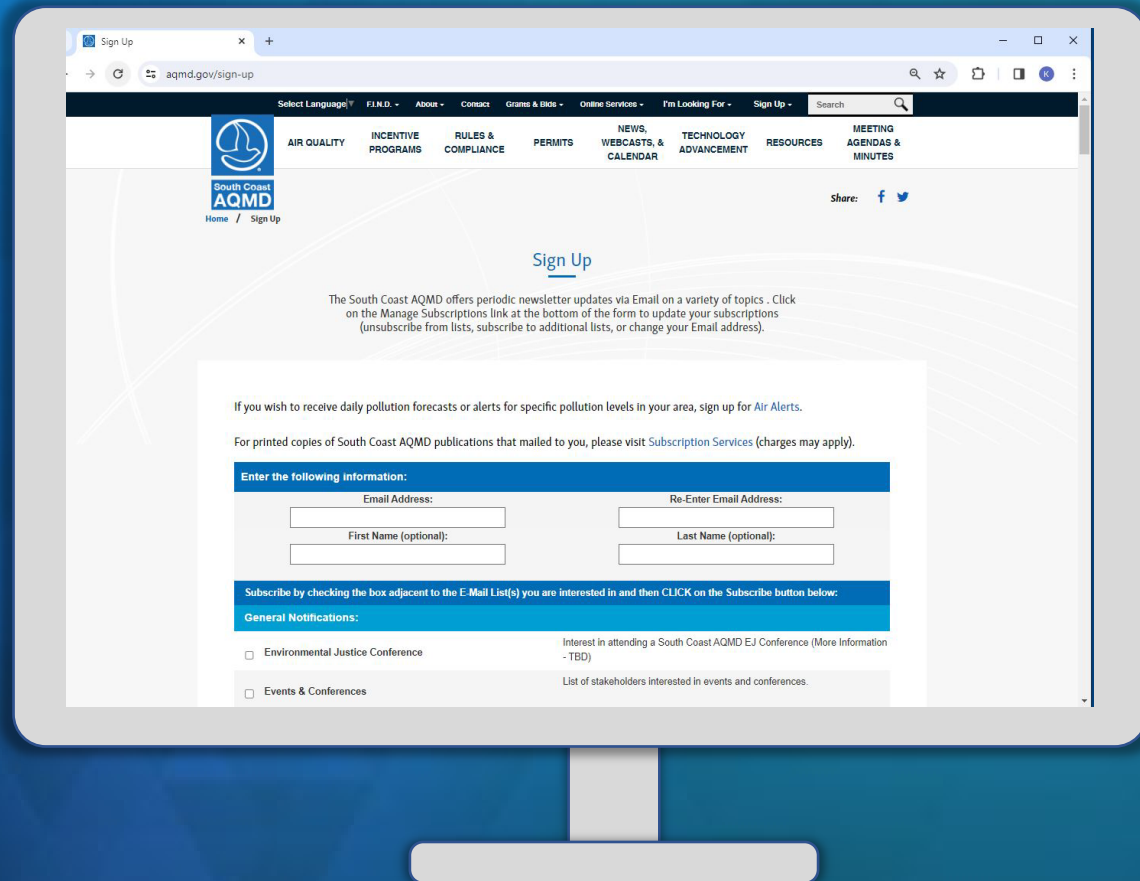
CEQA

Sina Taghvaei, Air Quality Specialist at staghvaei@aqmd.gov

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code Section 7920.000 et seq.) your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public on request or posted on the South Coast AQMD website.

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For comments or questions,
please email:
AQMPteam@aqmd.gov



Emissions Inventory and Maintenance Demonstration for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ NAAQS

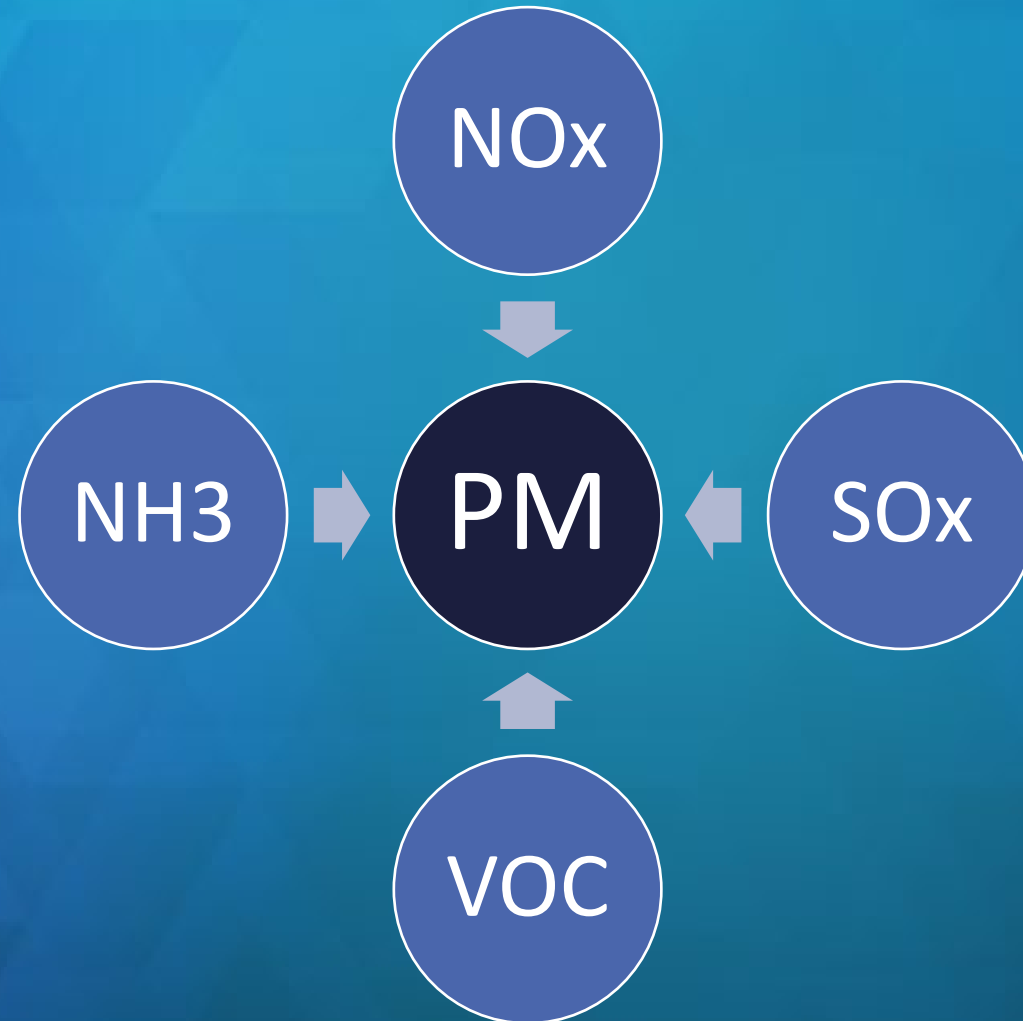
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Photo from <https://secretlosangeles.com/l-a-air-is-exceptionally-clear-now-that-millions-of-angerenos-are-staying-home/>

PM and its Precursor Emissions



Emission Sources

Point



Area



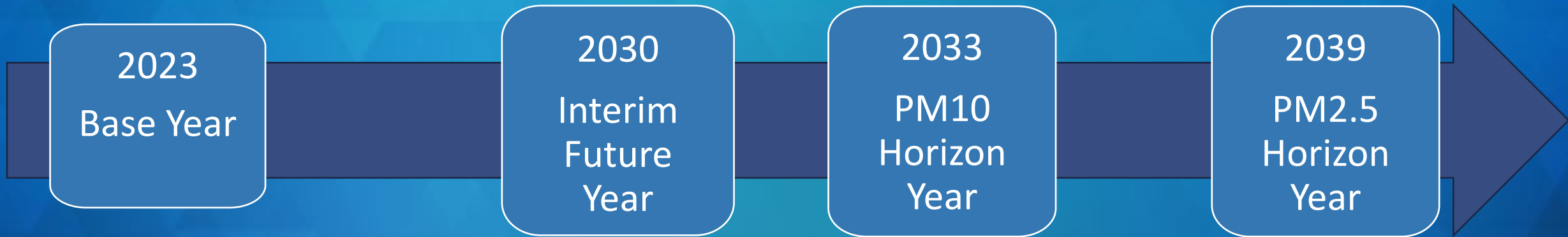
On-road Mobile



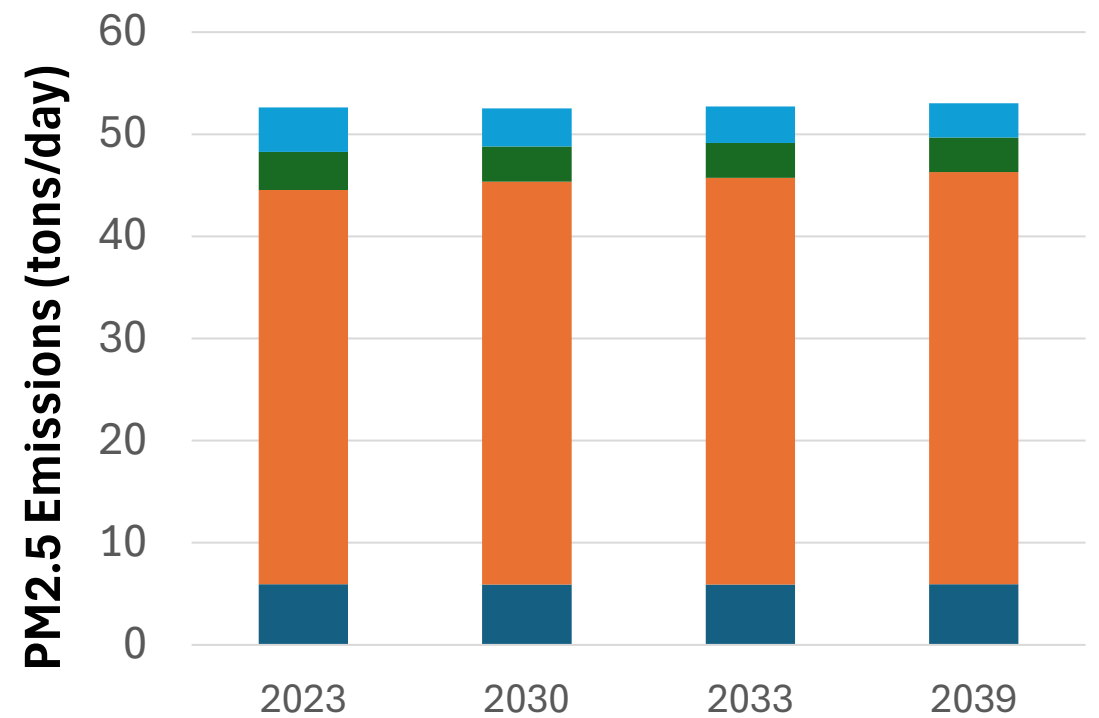
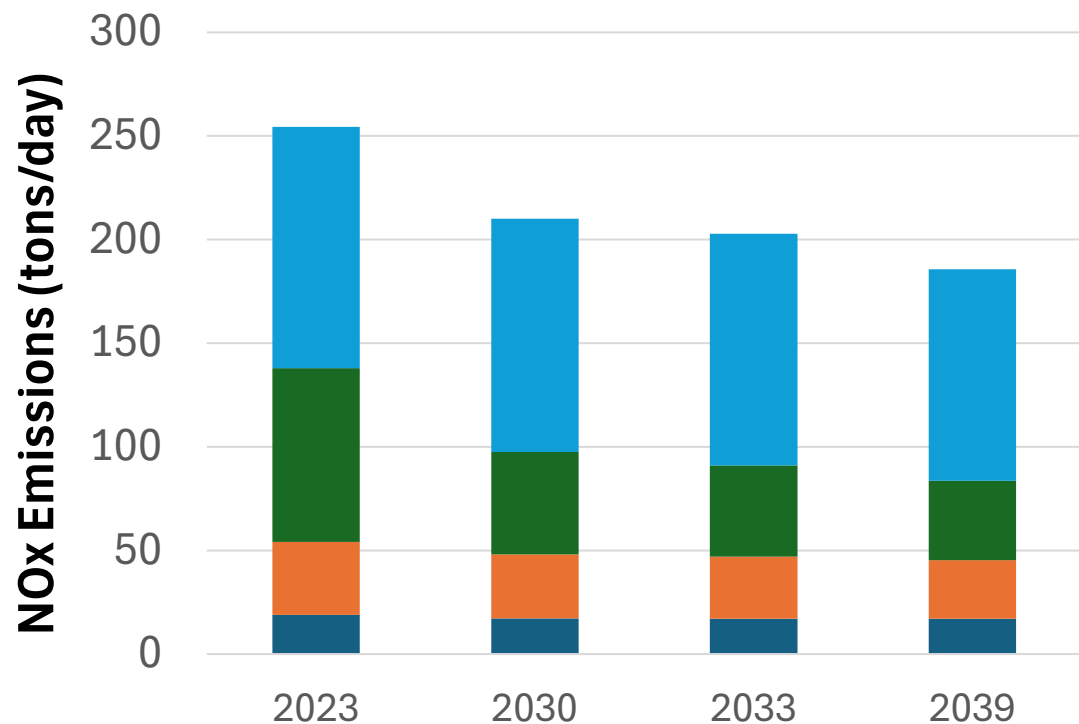
Off-road Mobile



Projecting Future Emissions

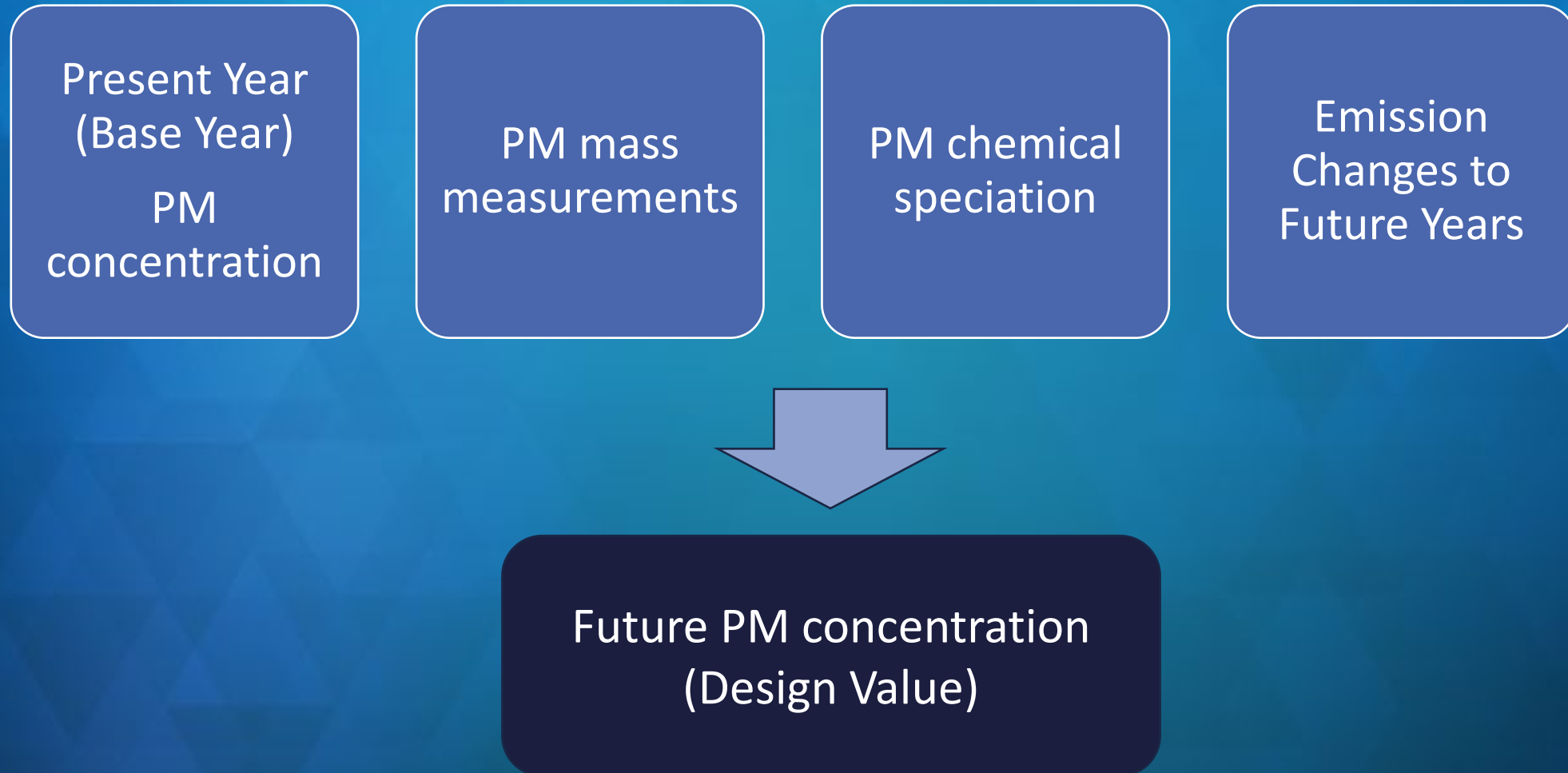


South Coast Air Basin Total Emissions Trends



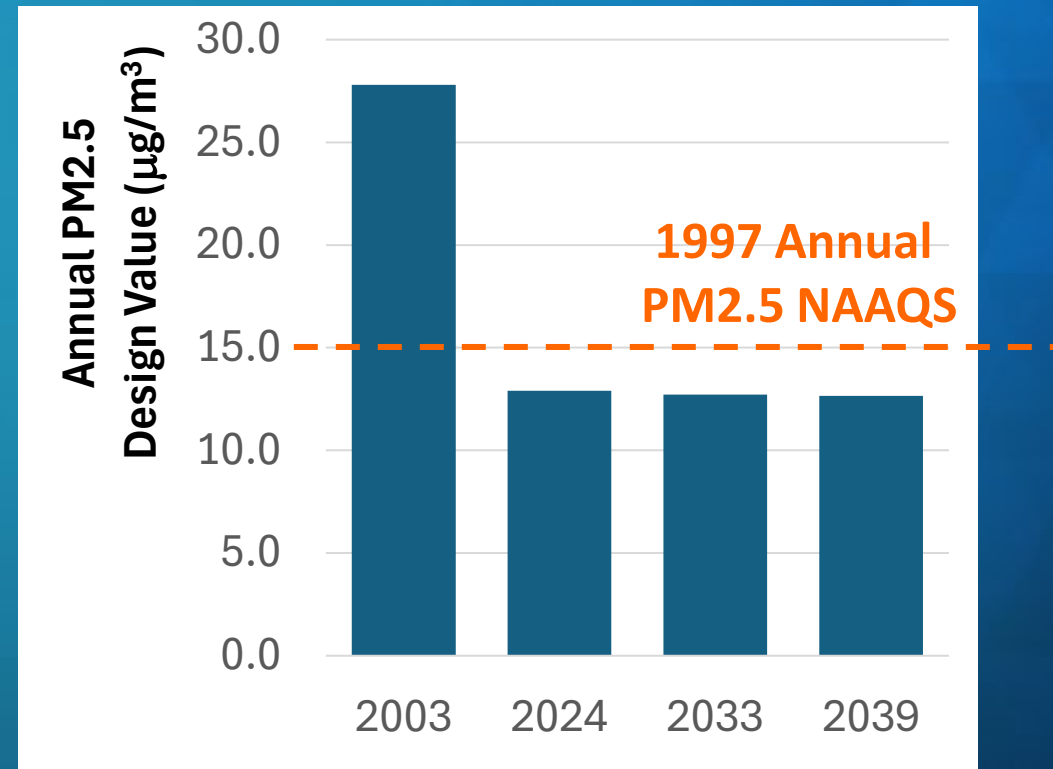
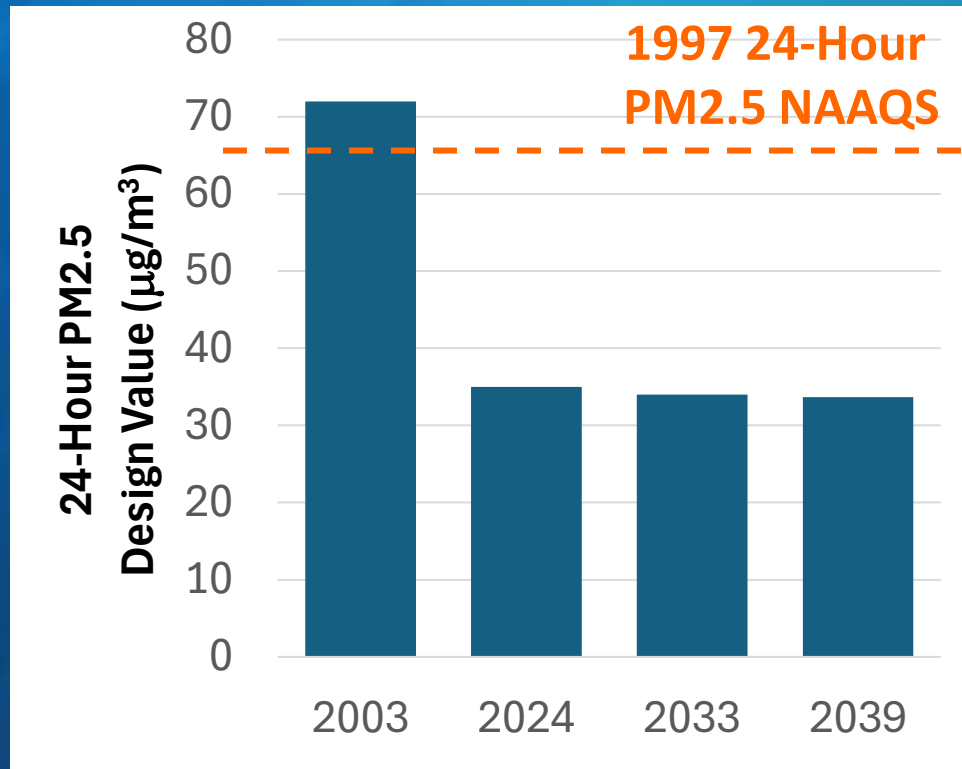
■ Stationary ■ Area ■ On-Road ■ Off-Road

Estimating Future PM Levels



PM2.5 Design Values

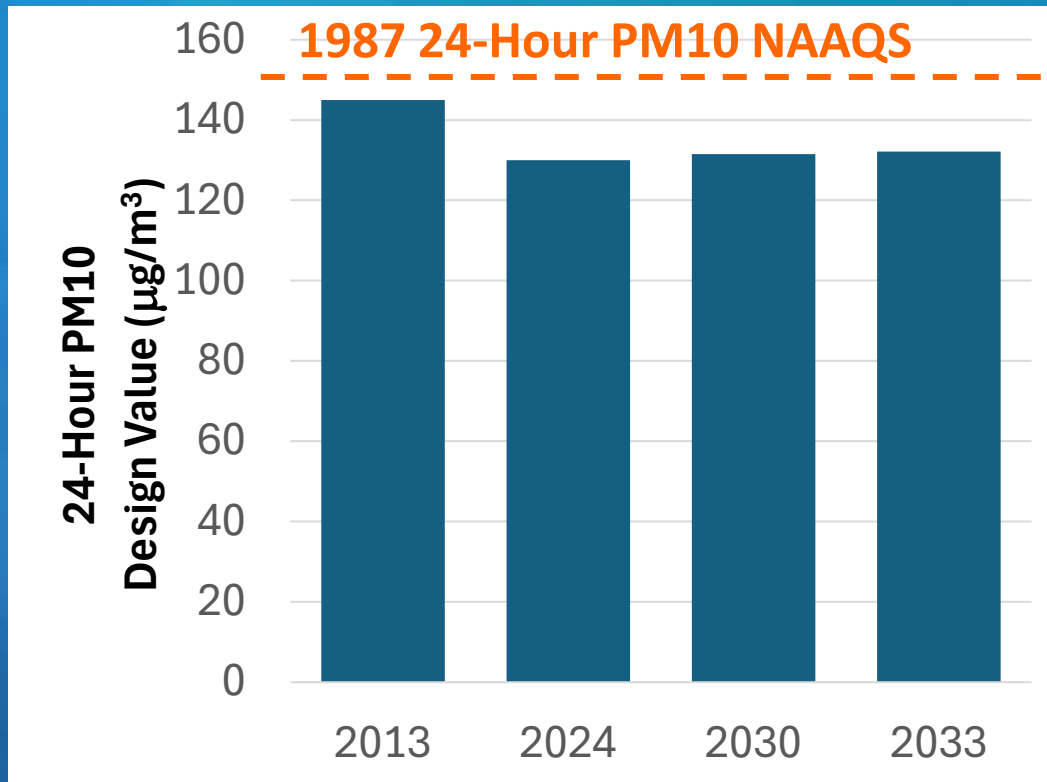
- Design values are projected to remain well below the standards



Design values at the monitoring station with the highest value

PM10 Design Values

- Design values are projected to remain well below 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



Design values at the monitoring station with the highest value

Summary

- Emissions inventory is updated with the most recent emissions data
- Future PM2.5 and PM10 design values were estimated using EPA-recommended methods
- All future design values for the standards evaluated here are projected to remain below the NAAQS
- NOx emissions are projected to decrease over time and will contribute to lower future PM2.5 levels
- PM10 levels continue to be well below the standards