

# State of California Air Resources Board

## Board Item Summary

### **Item # 21-1-2: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed 2020 Amendments to the Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards**

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the California Air Resources Board (Board or CARB) amend the area designations in regulations to reflect current air quality data.

#### **Discussion:**

CARB is required to annually review and designate areas of California with respect to the State ambient air quality standards and amend the designations if appropriate. Based on a review of air quality data collected during 2017 through 2019, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of several areas for the State ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards. These recommendations were developed with public input, including a public workshop held on October 20, 2020.

For the State ozone standard, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of North Central Coast Air Basin from nonattainment to attainment, Amador County in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and Shasta County in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin from nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional, and Santa Barbara County in the South Central Coast Air Basin from attainment to nonattainment. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CARB staff recommends the Board change the designation of the remainder of San Bernardino, Kern, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin from unclassified to attainment.

#### **Summary and Impacts:**

The area designations for State standards are required by State law. The area designations are labels that describe the healthfulness of the air quality in each area. Because these regulations by themselves are labels of an area's air quality, they do not contain any specific requirements for action. However, there may be other legal requirements based on an area's designation status, including: a reporting requirement for local air districts with ozone nonattainment areas, a uniform emissions reporting requirement for nonattainment areas, and Enhanced Vapor Recovery requirements for ozone unclassified or nonattainment areas.

The proposed change in ozone designation from nonattainment to attainment for North Central Coast Air Basin will suspend a reporting requirement for the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, resulting in some cost savings; the change in ozone designation from attainment to nonattainment for Santa Barbara County in the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District will reinstate a reporting requirement, resulting in some cost to the local district. The regional approach to categorizing air quality allows each district to

identify the most cost-effective and efficient approach to achieve the ambient air quality standards.