

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE 2008 VENTURA COUNTY AND WESTERN MOJAVE DESERT 8-HOUR OZONE ATTAINMENT PLANS

The Air Resources Board (the Board or ARB) will conduct a public hearing at the time and place noted below to consider the approval of the 2008 Ventura County and Western Mojave Desert 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plans. If adopted, ARB will submit these plans to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval as revisions to the California State Implementation Plan.

DATE: June 26, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency
Byron Sher Auditorium, Second Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

This item will be considered at a one-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before June 26, 2008, to determine the order in which the items will be considered.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. Please contact ARB's Disability Coordinator at 916-323-4916 by voice or through the California Relay Services at 711, to place your request for disability services. If you are a person with limited English and would like to request interpreter services, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at 916-323-7053.

Background

The federal Clean Air Act (the Act) establishes planning requirements for areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards. These nonattainment areas must develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that demonstrates how they will attain the standards by specified dates. In July 1997, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) promulgated a new 8-hour ozone standard for ground-level ozone. Ventura County and the Western Mojave Desert are among the 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas in California. The Western Mojave Desert area as defined by U.S. EPA includes the desert portion of Los Angeles County, which is under the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, and the

southwestern portion of San Bernardino County, which is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

U.S. EPA classified the Ventura County and the Western Mojave Desert as moderate 8-hour ozone non-attainment areas, with an attainment deadline of 2010. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District has requested re-classification to "serious." On May 13, 2008, the Ventura County Air Pollution District adopted a plan demonstrating attainment by the serious attainment deadline of 2013. The Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley local air districts have requested re-classification of the Western Mojave Desert to "severe-17." On May 20, 2008, the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District adopted a plan demonstrating attainment by the severe-17 attainment deadline of 2021. On June 9, 2008, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District adopted a plan also demonstrating attainment by the severe-17 attainment deadline of 2021. Each plan includes air quality modeling and weight of evidence analyses supporting the reclassification request and the attainment demonstration, as well as the control strategy, conformity budgets and reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations required by the Act.

The Ventura and Western Mojave Desert planning areas are downwind of the South Coast Air Basin. ARB staff analysis indicates that ozone and ozone precursors transported from the South Coast Air Basin contribute to high ozone levels in these downwind areas during the summer ozone season. Air quality modeling indicates that emission reductions in the South Coast Air Basin are needed to ensure attainment in both the Ventura and Western Mojave Desert areas. The State has submitted SIP revisions for the South Coast Air Basin that include commitments to achieve the emission reductions needed to attain the PM_{2.5} standard in 2014, and the ozone standard in 2023. Attainment and RFP demonstrations for both Ventura and the Western Mojave Desert rely in part on reductions projected to occur in the South Coast Air Basin as a result of existing control programs, as provided for in U.S. EPA guidance, but are not dependent on new strategies identified in the 2007 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan or the 2007 State Strategy.

Proposed Action

ARB staff has reviewed both the Ventura County and Western Mojave Desert proposed 2008 Plans. Staff concurs that the Ventura County plan demonstrates attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by June 2013. Staff also concurs that the Western Mojave Desert plan demonstrates attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by June 2021. ARB staff recommends that the Board approve the locally adopted 2008 Ventura County and Western Mojave Desert 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plans, and directs the Executive Officer to submit the plans to the U.S. EPA as revisions to the California SIP.

ARB staff will present a written Staff Report at the meeting. Copies of the report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, 1st Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990, on June 12, 2008. The report may also be obtained from ARB's internet site at

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/sip.htm> .

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by email before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 25, 2008**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Facsimile submittal: (916) 322-3928

The Board requests, but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, ARB requests that written and email statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Ms. Andrea Juarez, Air Pollution Specialist, (916) 324-2821, 1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812, or via email at ajuarez@arb.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

_____/s/_____
James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: June 12, 2008

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website at www.arb.ca.gov.