



**El Dorado County
Air Quality Management District**

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**Dave Johnston
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October 17, 2023
El Dorado County
Air Quality Management District Board of Directors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Public Hearing to Adopt the 2015 Sacramento Regional 8-hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan

Honorable Board Members:

□ **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Board adopt the Sacramento Regional 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan (Plan), including 2023, 2026, 2029, and 2032 emissions inventories, photochemical modeling results, 2032 attainment demonstration, the reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations for 2023, 2026, and 2029, and the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) for milestone years 2023, 2026, and 2029 and attainment year 2032.

□ **BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) first promulgated the NAAQS for ozone in 1971, and promulgated revisions in 1979, 1997, 2008, and 2015. The 2015 ozone NAAQS was set at 70 parts per billion averaged over an 8-hour period.

On June 4, 2018, USEPA classified the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) as a Moderate nonattainment area based on quality data from 2013 – 2015. On May 26, 2020, the SFNA air districts requested a voluntary reclassification for Moderate to Serious nonattainment because ambient air quality data and modeling indicated attainment would not be achieved by the Moderate nonattainment area deadline of August 2024. In May of 2022, the SFNA air districts requested a voluntary reclassification from Serious to Severe-15 because more recent ambient air quality data and modeling conducted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) indicated attainment would not be achieved by the Serious attainment date of August 2027. The request was forwarded by CARB and is pending action by the USEPA. If the reclassification to Severe-15 request is approved, the attainment deadline will be August 2033.

The SFNA includes Sacramento and Yolo counties, the western portion of El Dorado and Placer counties, the southern portion of Sutter County, and the northeastern portion of Solano County. The five air districts with jurisdiction in the SFNA are the El Dorado, Feather River, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo/Solano air districts.

The USEPA's Final Rule to Implement the 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS requires nonattainment areas classified "Serious and above" to demonstrate progress toward attainment of the NAAQS by conducting a Reasonably Available Control Measures analysis, compiling emissions inventories, establishing new motor vehicle emissions budgets, and complying with the timeline for State Implementation Plan submissions. The SFNA air districts have prepared the Plan to demonstrate how the RFP requirements will be met.

The Clean Air Act prohibits federal agencies in nonattainment areas from engaging in, approving, permitting, or providing financial support for activities that do not conform to the area's Plan. The Clean Air Act also requires transportation conformity to ensure transportation activities do not impede the area's ability to attain the NAAQS. Transportation planning in the SFNA is the responsibility of the Sacramento Area Council of Government (SACOG) and the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (BAMTC - Solano portion). To comply with the Clean Air Act conformity requirement, SACOG and BAMTC must demonstrate that vehicle emissions from projected regional transportation plans, programs, and projects will be less than the projected MVEBs for 2023, 2026 and 2029 RFP milestone years and 2032 attainment year. The Plan sets MVEBs for 2023, 2026, 2029, and 2032 that are consistent with the emissions inventory, RFP milestones and 2032 attainment requirements.

In continuation of the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) efforts to achieve the NAAQS, and to meet the RFP requirements for the Severe-15 classification, AQMD collaborated with the SFNA air districts to prepare the Plan. The Plan includes a commitment from the EDC AQMD to present a contingency measure item to the AQMD Board of Directors for consideration. The contingency measure will be an update to AQMD's Architectural Coatings rule to align it with CARB's 2019 Suggested Control Measure for Architectural Coatings (SCMAC). The contingency measure will be implemented if the region fails to achieve attainment by the August 2033 deadline. Other than continuing to implement current programs, no additional obligations will be required of AQMD.

□ **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Clean Air Act requires nonattainment areas demonstrate how they will meet the NAAQS as expeditiously as practicable by adopting and implementing a Plan to do so. Based on CARB's current photochemical modeling, the SFNA is expected to attain by the end of 2032, and meet the emission reduction targets of 3% per year for milestone years 2023, 2026, and 2029.

The Plan and proposed Resolution were noticed in the Mountain Democrat, the Tahoe News Tribune and AQMD's webpage. The purpose of the Board Public Hearing is to accept public comments on and consider adopting the Plan. The Resolution was approved by County Counsel. No public comments have yet been received.

□ **FISCAL IMPACT:**

No direct fiscal impact is anticipated from adopting the Plan. Should the Architectural Coatings contingency measure be subsequently adopted by the Board and then triggered by failure to attain the ozone NAAQS by August 2033, the fiscal impact to architectural coatings vendors in the County is expected to be minimal as coatings manufacturers are already producing compliant coatings being sold in other California air districts that have incorporated the SCMAC limits into their rules. The production of compliant coatings and their use throughout California are anticipated to increase during the ensuing years.

□ **NET COUNTY COST:**

There is no net county cost.

□ **ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING APPROVAL:**

1. Upon adoption, the Board Clerk's office will provide a certified copy of the resolution to the AQMD
2. The AQMD will forward the approved resolution to CARB for CARB's Board approval and inclusion in the California SIP submittal.

Respectfully,

Dave Johnston
Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachments:

1. Resolution: Approval of the 2015 Sacramento Regional 8-hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan
2. 2015 Sacramento Regional 8-hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan
3. Notice of CEQA Exemption