

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Sections Affected: Amendments to title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 60200, 60201, 60202, 60206, 70302, 70303, 70303.1, 70303.5, and 70304, and appendices 1, 2, and 3 to sections 70300 through 70306, pursuant to sections 39607, 39608, and 40925.5 of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC). Adoption of new title 17, CCR, section 60210, pursuant to section 39608 of the H&SC.

Summary: At a public hearing on January 22, 2004, the staff proposed several amendments to the area designation criteria (title 17, CCR, sections 70300 through 70306, and appendices 1 through 4, thereof). One proposed change added fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) to the list of regional pollutants that are designated by air basin. Other proposed changes clarify and provide for consistency among various existing portions of the designation criteria. The California Air Resources Board (Board) adopted all of the proposed amendments to the designation criteria as proposed by staff.

At the January 22, 2004, hearing, the staff also proposed changes to the existing area designations for State ambient air quality standards (title 17, CCR, sections 60200, 60201, 60202, and 60206) and proposed adoption of first-time area designations for PM_{2.5} (new title 17, CCR, section 60210). Again, the Board adopted all of the amendments, as proposed by staff and described in the following two paragraphs.

Based on data collected during 2000 through 2002, the staff proposed redesignating San Luis Obispo County and the portion of Sonoma County within the North Coast Air Basin as attainment for ozone. Staff also proposed redesignating the Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin as nonattainment-transitional for CO and the portion of the Searles Valley Planning Area located in San Bernardino County as attainment for sulfates.

Also based on data collected during 2000 through 2002, the staff proposed first-time area designations for the new State PM_{2.5} standard, which became effective July 3, 2003. The staff proposed the following area designations: Lake County as attainment; the following eleven areas as nonattainment: San Diego Air Basin, San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin, San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, South Coast Air Basin, Butte County, Sacramento County, the portion of Placer County within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, Ventura County, the City of Calexico in Imperial County, Central San Bernardino County (consistent with the San Bernardino County portion of the federal Southeast Desert Modified Air Quality Maintenance Area for ozone), and the Portola Valley area of Plumas County; and the remaining areas of the State as

unclassified. In conjunction with the PM2.5 designations, the staff proposed amending the area designation regulations to include descriptions of the three unique areas (City of Calexico, Central San Bernardino County, and Portola Valley).

In addition to the area designations described above, the staff also summarized at the public hearing, three changes to the ozone area designations that occurred by operation of law, pursuant to section 40925.5 of the H&SC. These changes comprise Butte County redesignated as nonattainment, the North Central Coast Air Basin redesignated as nonattainment, and Colusa County redesignated as nonattainment-transitional.

As stated at the beginning of this section, at the January 22, 2004, public hearing, the Board adopted all of the staff's proposed amendments to both the designation criteria and the area designation regulations, as proposed. All of the proposed amendments are described in the Initial Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking released on December 5, 2003.