

State of California  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

**Final Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking,  
Including Summary of Comments and Agency Responses**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
THE AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

Public Hearing Date: November 16, 2006  
Agenda Item No.: 06-10-7

**I. GENERAL**

On November 16, 2006, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) conducted a public hearing to consider amendments to the area designations for State ambient air quality standards (contained in title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 60200 through 60210). The Staff Report: Initial Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking, entitled "Area Designations and Maps 2006" (staff report or ISOR), was made available to the public beginning September 29, 2006. The ISOR, which is incorporated by reference herein, contained a description of the rationale for the proposed amendments. The Final Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking, or FSOR, updates the ISOR by summarizing written and oral comments received during the 45-day public comment period.

Following the public hearing on November 16, 2006, the Board, by Resolution 06-41, adopted amendments to the area designation regulations. These regulations set forth designations of attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, and unclassified for each area of the State with respect to the State standards. Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 39608(c) requires the Board to conduct an annual review of the area designations and update them as warranted. The amendments to the area designation regulations affect title 17, CCR, sections 60201, 60202, 60205, 60210. Based on data collected during 2003 through 2005, the Board redesignated one area for carbon monoxide, one area for suspended particulate matter or PM10, one area for fine suspended particulate matter or PM2.5, and several areas for ozone. The Board also amended the area designation regulations to reflect the change from the ozone nonattainment-transitional to nonattainment designation for the North Central Coast Air Basin and seven counties in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (Butte, Shasta, Solano (Sacramento Valley Air Basin portion), Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba) that took effect by operation of law under the provisions of H&SC section 40925.5. The designations the Board adopted are summarized in Table 1.

*Update of Information Contained in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR)*

The ISOR was made available to the public on September 29, 2006. No changes were made after its release.

### Fiscal Impacts

The Board has determined that this regulatory action will not result in a mandate to any local agency or school district, the costs of which are reimbursable by the State pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with section 17500), Division 4, Title 2 of the Government Code.

The Board has determined that this regulatory action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, or on representative private persons.

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.3, the Board has determined that this regulatory action will not affect the creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California, the creation of new businesses or elimination of existing businesses within the State of California, or the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.

In addition, the Board has determined that there will be no, or an insignificant, potential cost impact, as defined in Government Code section 11346.53(e), on private persons or businesses directly affected resulting from this regulatory action.

Finally, the Board has determined, pursuant to title 1, CCR, section 4, that this regulatory action will not affect small businesses because the proposed regulatory action does not contain any requirements for action.

### Consideration of Alternatives

H&SC section 39608 requires the Board to make and to annually review the area designations for State ambient air quality standards. The proposed area designations reflect the most current and complete ambient air quality data, collected during 2003 through 2005. The Board considered the potential alternatives to the proposed amendments, namely the no action alternative. However, based on the available data, the Board found that the proposed amendments are more appropriate than the no action alternative, which would not be consistent with State law. Furthermore, the no action alternative would not serve to inform the public about the healthfulness of air quality.

In summary, the Board determined that no alternative considered by the agency would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulatory action was proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the action taken by the Board.

### Modifications to the Original Proposal

There were no modifications to the original proposal. The amended regulations the Board adopted are identical to those initially proposed by the staff and made available in the staff report released on September 29, 2006.

## II. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSES

No comments were received during the 45-day comment period, which began on September 29, 2006. In addition, there was no public testimony at the public hearing on November 16, 2006.

**TABLE 1**

### ***Amendments to the Area Designations for State Standards***

Adopted by the Air Resources Board on November 16, 2006

| <b><i>POLLUTANT</i></b> | <b><i>AREA</i></b>  | <b><i>DESIGNATION</i></b> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Carbon Monoxide         | Imperial County<br>(Salton Sea Air Basin)   | Attainment                |
| PM10                    | Sonoma County<br>(North Coast Air Basin portion)  | Attainment                |
| PM2.5                   | San Luis Obispo County<br>(South Central Coast Air Basin)   | Attainment                |
| Ozone                   | Lassen and Modoc Counties<br>(Northeast Plateau Air Basin)  | Unclassified              |
|                         | Lake Tahoe Air Basin  |                           |
|                         | Inyo County<br>(Great Basin Valleys Air Basin)  | Nonattainment             |
|                         | San Luis Obispo County<br>(South Central Coast Air Basin)   |                           |
|                         | Siskiyou County<br>(Northeast Plateau Air Basin)  |                           |
|                         | Sonoma County<br>(North Coast Air Basin portion)  |                           |
|                         | North Central Coast Air Basin   | Nonattainment*            |
|                         | Butte, Shasta, Solano (portion),<br>Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba<br>Counties<br>(Sacramento Valley Air Basin) |                           |

\* The ozone designation from nonattainment-transitional occurs by operation of law, under the provisions of Health and Safety Code section 40925.5.