

Originally, there were no attainment deadlines for the CAAQS. However, the California Clean Air Act (CCAA) of 1988 provided a time frame and a planning structure to promote their attainment. The CCAA required nonattainment areas in the State to prepare attainment plans and proposed to classify each such area on the basis of the submitted plan, as follows: moderate, if CAAQS attainment could not occur before December 31, 1994; serious, if CAAQS attainment could not occur before December 31, 1997; and severe, if CAAQS attainment could not be conclusively demonstrated at all.

The attainment plans are required to achieve a minimum five percent annual reduction in the emissions of nonattainment pollutants unless all feasible measures have been implemented. Riverside County is currently classified as a nonattainment area for two criteria pollutants (O_3 and PM_{10}) for State standards.

3.7.4 Regional Air Quality Planning Framework

The 1976 Lewis Air Quality Management Act established air districts throughout the State of California. The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 (1977 CAAA) required that each state adopt an implementation plan outlining pollution control measures to attain the federal standards in non-attainment or maintenance areas of the state. This requirement led to the local air quality planning processes in areas like the SCAB.

3.7.4.1 Regional Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)

The federal CAA prohibits federal departments and agencies or other agencies from acting on behalf of the federal government, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) from engaging in, supporting in any way, providing financial assistance for, licensing, permitting or approving any activity that does not conform to the SIP. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the MPO for Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange counties. Federal law requires that a proposed project conform with the SIP. The AQMP must be reviewed and approved by the EPA before it becomes part of the SIP. SIP status in the region is complex because of a combination of EPA proposed action on the SIP and legal action by various parties.

The SCAQMD governing Board approved the 1997 AQMP on November 15, 1996. After approval, the AQMP was submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for its review and approval. CARB approved the ozone and PM_{10} portions of the 1997 AQMP on January 23, 1997, and submitted the plan to the EPA as proposed revisions to the SIP. The EPA rejected the District's revision of its 1997 AQMP in January, 1999. The rejection, however, covers only the provisions of the AQMP designed to attain the federal ozone standard. As a result of the rejection, SCAQMD prepared a draft "Proposed 1999 Amendment to the 1997 Ozone SIP Revision for the South Coast Air Basin" on October 7, 1999, for public review and comment. The 1999 Amendment proposed to revise the ozone portion of the 1997 AQMP that was submitted to the EPA as a revision to the South Coast Air Basin portion of the 1994 California Ozone SIP. The SCAQMD Governing Board adopted the "1999 Amendment to the 1997 Ozone SIP Revision for the South Coast Air Basin" on December 10, 1999. The EPA approved the 1999 amendment for ozone in 2001; however, there currently is no approved SIP for CO and PM_{10} .