



Issues and Policies

AIR QUALITY

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Air quality is viewed as such an important factor in the quality of life that its measurements are used as a major factor in evaluating the Plan's performance.

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– RCIP Vision

Six criteria air pollutants have been established for every air basin within the State of California. These are pollutants for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set. As shown in Table AQ-1, Ambient Air Quality Standards, federal and state standards have been developed for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and PM₁₀. Federal primary standards for air pollutants have been established to protect the public health, while secondary standards protect the public welfare by preventing impairment of visibility and damage to vegetation and property.

**Table AQ-1
Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	State	Federal	
			Primary	Secondary
Ozone	1 Hour	0.09 ppm	0.12 ppm	Same as Primary Standard
	8 Hour	0.08 ppm	0.08 ppm	
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual Average	0.053 ppm	0.053 ppm	Same as Primary Standard
	1 Hour	0.25 ppm	–	
Carbon Monoxide	8 Hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm	–
	1 Hour	20.0 ppm	35.0 ppm	–
Suspended Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ & PM _{2.5})	Annual Geometric Mean	30 µg/m ³	65 µg/m ³ (PM _{2.5})	–
	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³	150 µg/m ³ (PM ₁₀) 15 µg/m ³ (PM _{2.5})	Same as Primary Standard
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	--	50 µg/m ³	
Sulfur Dioxide	Annual Average	--	0.03 ppm	Same as Primary Standard
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm	0.14 ppm	
	3 Hour	--	--	0.5 ppm
	1 Hour	0.25 ppm	--	--
Lead	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³	--	--
	Calendar Quarter	--	1.5 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard

Notes: ppm = parts per million; µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter of air
Source: California Air Resources Board Fact Sheet 39, 1998.