

USEPA FACT SHEET

Summary:

EPA is proposing the following actions regarding the Indian Country of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation (Pechanga Reservation):

- Revise the boundaries between nonattainment areas in Southern California to redesignate the Pechanga Reservation as a separate air quality planning area for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard.
- Approve the Pechanga Tribe's redesignation request and maintenance plan for the new Pechanga Reservation air quality planning area based on technical data and other information that demonstrate attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard.

If finalized as proposed, the Pechanga Reservation will be its own air quality planning area for all federal ozone standards. The Pechanga Reservation air quality planning area will be a "moderate" nonattainment area for the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard.

Background:

- In 2009, the Pechanga Tribe requested that EPA designate Pechanga lands as a separate ozone nonattainment area. In May 2012, EPA designated Pechanga lands as a separate "moderate" ozone nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone standard. In November 2014, the Pechanga Tribe submitted a request for redesignation to attainment for the 1997 ozone standard along with a maintenance plan.
- Pechanga has one major stationary source of ozone precursor emissions, the Pechanga Casino and Resort, within the tribal boundaries. Emission sources at the casino include boilers, a gas turbine, emergency generators, cooling towers, and a spray booth. Other sources of ozone precursor emissions include local traffic to and from the casino/resort, parking structures, a golf course, a gas station, and a recreational vehicle (RV) park.
- Our action today proposes to approve the Pechanga Tribe's request for a boundary change and redesignation of the Pechanga Reservation to attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard based on relevant air quality data, topography, meteorology, and jurisdictional factors. The Pechanga Reservation will remain a "moderate" ozone nonattainment area for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard.
- Ozone pollution can cause inflammation and irritation of respiratory airways, coughing, shortness of breath, reduced lung function, asthma symptoms and increased hospitalizations for respiratory causes. Children and the elderly are most impacted by ozone pollution.

Next Steps:

- EPA is providing a 30-day public comment period and will consider all submitted comments before taking final action on this proposal.

For further information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/calwide/index.html>