

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET
Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of
Air Quality State Implementation Plans for California

November 24, 2015

Summary

- The Clean Air Act requires states to submit to EPA plans that implement, maintain, and enforce national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These plans, known as Infrastructure State Implementation Plans (SIPs), need to be updated as new air quality standards are adopted.
- EPA is partially approving and partially disapproving five California Infrastructure SIP submittals that collectively address the following NAAQS:
 - 1997 and 2008 ozone standards
 - 1997, 2006, and 2012 fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) standards
 - 2008 lead (Pb) standard
 - 2010 nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) standard
 - 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO₂) standard
- Today's action approves California's submittals for the vast majority of the applicable Clean Air Act requirements. Additionally, there are several narrow deficiencies that need to be corrected.

Background

- EPA's action is based on a thorough review of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Infrastructure SIP submittals, the California SIP for the standards listed above, and relevant state, county, and federal regulations and requirements.
- EPA is approving most of California's Infrastructure SIP submittals, including:
 - Requirements related to emission limits, enforcement provisions, resources, stationary source monitoring, consultation, modeling, and permit fees, and the vast majority of the requirements for ambient air monitoring and emergency episode planning
 - New provisions to address conflict of interest requirements that apply to government entities that approve air permits and enforcement orders
 - Reclassification of Great Basin Valley to a higher emergency episode classification for particulate matter (PM) and approval of a new PM emergency episode rule for this region
 - Reclassification of four regions (Lake Tahoe, Metropolitan Los Angeles, North Central Coast, and San Francisco Bay Area) for ozone, NO₂, and/or SO₂ emergency episode planning, which relieve the regions of the emergency episode contingency plan requirement
- EPA is finalizing disapproval for several narrow deficiencies, including:
 - Ozone monitoring in the Bakersfield portion of San Joaquin Valley
 - Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit program requirements to regulate PM_{2.5} in Mendocino County, North Coast Unified, and Northern Sonoma County districts
 - Emergency episode plans for ozone in El Dorado County and for PM_{2.5} in San Joaquin Valley

- EPA is making minor changes from the October 23, 2014 proposed rule, including finalization of the following:
 - Approval of the PSD-related infrastructure SIP requirements for five additional districts (Butte County, Feather River, Great Basin Unified, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County) due to our recent approval of these districts' PSD permit programs
 - Approval of the minor NSR-related infrastructure SIP requirement for five additional districts (Lake County, Mariposa County, Mojave Desert, Northern Sierra, and Tuolumne County) due to public comments and further SIP research and evaluation
 - Narrowing the applicability of the partial disapproval for Mountain Counties' emergency episode planning due to our recent approval of Placer County's ozone emergency episode plan
- Finalizing the partial disapprovals does not trigger any sanctions on the State or districts. However, EPA must promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for each deficiency identified. EPA has already promulgated a FIP for many PSD-related deficiencies. For the remaining deficiencies, EPA must promulgate a FIP by dates that have either been set by prior EPA disapproval or findings of failure to submit actions, or that are established as two years from the effective date of today's final rule, unless California submits and EPA approves SIP revisions that adequately address the applicable deficiencies.
- Today's action will not impose any new or additional requirements on industry. CARB and each of the affected air agencies is expected to take necessary steps to remedy the remaining deficiencies.
- EPA is committed to working closely with CARB and the districts affected by the proposed partial disapprovals to resolve these deficiencies as soon as practicable.

For more Information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>.