

## U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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### **EPA Proposes to Redesignate the Yuba City-Marysville Area to Attainment for the Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard**

September 29, 2014

#### **Summary**

- EPA is proposing to approve California's request to redesignate the Yuba City-Marysville area to attainment for the 2006 fine particulate matter 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS). These particles are commonly referred to as PM<sub>2.5</sub> because they have a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less.
- EPA is also proposing to approve California's plan demonstrating that the Yuba City-Marysville area will maintain the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS for at least ten years, the attainment year emissions inventory, and motor vehicle emissions budgets.
- Today's actions represent a significant milestone in air quality improvement accomplished through the combined efforts of the Feather River Air Quality Management District, the California Air Resources Board, and EPA.

#### **Background**

- In January 2013, EPA issued a determination that the Yuba City-Marysville nonattainment area attained the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard based on complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2009–2011 monitoring period.

#### **Particulate Matter and Public Health**

- Reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels is essential because fine particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs and exposure is linked to a variety of significant health problems including damage to lung tissue, cancer and premature death.
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> can be emitted directly into the atmosphere or formed in the atmosphere as a result of various chemical reactions from emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and ammonia.

#### **Next Steps**

- Today's proposed action will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and include a 30-day period for public comment.
- After the close of the comment period, EPA will evaluate the comments and respond to them in subsequent rulemaking action.

#### **For More Information:**

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>