

## U.S. EPA Fact Sheet

### Final Actions

### South Coast and San Joaquin Valley 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Attainment Plans

September 30, 2011

#### Summary of Actions

- EPA is approving nearly all the elements of the fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air quality plans (Plans) for the South Coast (SC) and San Joaquin Valley (SJV) areas in California and granting the State's request to extend the deadline for attaining these standards in these areas to April 5, 2015. These Plans, known as the State Implementation Plans, are the roadmaps to meeting the health based 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- EPA believes these Plans will reduce pollution to the level required by the health based 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 2015.
- EPA proposed its actions on these Plans in November 2010 and July 2011 and requested public comment. After careful review of the comments received, EPA is today approving the following elements of both Plans:
  - Attainment demonstration
  - Attainment date extension to April 5, 2015
  - Emission inventories
  - Reasonable Further Progress demonstration
  - Reasonably available control measures demonstration
  - Transportation conformity budgets
  - State and Districts' commitments
- EPA is disapproving the Plans' contingency measures because they do not provide sufficient emissions reductions. Sanctions clocks will start once the disapprovals becomes effective (60-days from publication in the Federal Register). However, we are continuing to work with the State and Districts to find additional measures that will reduce emissions and resolve this issue.

#### Particulate Matter and Public Health

- Currently, the SJV and SC areas both violate the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS and have the highest annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in the country.
- 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.
- The air quality Plans EPA is approving today, will help reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions:

- In the South Coast, between 2002 and 2015, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions will decrease by about 55%, or decline from 1,024 tons per day (tpd) to 460 tpd.
- In SJV, between 2005 and 2015, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions will decrease by 49%, or decline from 575 tpd to 291 tpd.

## **Background**

- In November 2010, EPA proposed to disapprove the SC and SJV PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plans. While we proposed to disapprove many elements of the Plans, the reasons for those disapprovals were primarily the same; that the Plans relied heavily on emission reductions from several mobile source rules that had not been submitted to EPA for review.
- In response to EPA's initial proposal, the State submitted revisions to their Plans and additional documentation to address all of the disapproval issues, with the exception of contingency measures. The revisions included submitting three of the most progressive mobile source rules in the nation, including: the In-Use Diesel Truck and Bus rule, the Drayage Truck rule and the Ocean Going Vessels Clean Fuels rule.
- In July 2011, EPA issued an amended proposal to approve most elements of the SC and SJV Plans. EPA proposed to disapprove the contingency measures and rejected the federal assignment.
- EPA expects to finalize approval of the mobile source rules by the effective date of today's actions.
- EPA has responded to all significant public comments in the final rules. Commenters include:
  - Business associations, including the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition and American Association of Railroads
  - Environmental organizations, including NRDC, CBE, Earth Justice, AIR and CRPE
  - Private citizens
  - CARB, the SC and SJV districts

## **Next Steps**

- Today's final action will become effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. To view a pre-publication version, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>