

## U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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### **Proposed Approval of South Coast Air Basin Contingency Measures for the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Interim Final Rule to Defer Sanctions**

**June 12, 2013**

#### **Summary**

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires states to adopt and submit for EPA approval contingency measures that will be triggered in the event an area fails to meet reasonable further progress (RFP) milestones or fails to attain the NAAQS.
- EPA is proposing to approve fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) contingency measures for the South Coast air basin in California. Specifically, we are proposing to approve emissions reductions from California's clean vehicles measures, open and wood burning rules, an architectural coatings rule, and the Carl Moyer incentive program for contingency measure purposes. Our proposal takes into consideration significant improvements in PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality in the South Coast air basin over the past decade.
- EPA is also issuing an Interim Final Rule to defer imposing off-set and highway sanctions.

#### **Background**

- In 1997, EPA promulgated annual and 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS of 15 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) and 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , respectively. In 2005, the South Coast air basin was designated "nonattainment" for the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.
- In 2007, the State of California submitted a PM<sub>2.5</sub> State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the South Coast air basin and in November 2011 (effective January 9, 2012) EPA approved all elements of the South Coast 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP except for the contingency measures, which EPA disapproved.
- EPA's disapproval of the contingency measures started an 18-month off-set sanction clock and a 2-year highway sanction and FIP clock. The off-set sanctions are scheduled to begin on July 9, 2013. The highway sanctions would begin on January 9, 2014.
- In November 2011, the State submitted a contingency measure plan to correct this SIP deficiency, and in April 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District submitted a technical clarification to the plan.

#### **Next Steps**

- Today's proposed action will be published in the Federal Register and will include a 30-day public comment period from the date of publication. EPA's Federal Register notice and docket contain detailed information on our proposed action.

- While the Interim Final Rule deferring sanctions is effective upon publication in the Federal Register, EPA is also providing a 30-day comment period on this action. If comments submitted change our assessment, we intend to take a subsequent final action to re-impose the sanctions clocks. If no comments are submitted that change our current assessment, all sanctions and sanctions clocks will be permanently terminated on the effective date of a final approval.
- **For More Information:** <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>

