

## FACT SHEET

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### Final Action on South Coast Air Quality Management Plan for the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standards

#### Summary of Action

- The EPA is approving in part and disapproving in part those portions of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan) that address attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards and the 2015 Supplement to the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan (collectively the "Plan").
- Specifically, the EPA is approving the following elements of the Plan:
  - The emission inventories
  - The demonstration that the South Coast cannot practicably attain by the Moderate area attainment date of December 31, 2015
  - The control strategy commitments
  - The general conformity budgets
- The EPA is disapproving the following portions of the Plan:
  - The demonstration that the Plan provides for the implementation of reasonably available control measures and reasonably available control technology (RACM/RACT) due to deficiencies in the 2010 version of the area's Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) included in this Plan
  - The demonstration that the Plan provides for reasonable further progress

To correct these deficiencies, the State must submit to EPA a demonstration that the NO<sub>x</sub> RECLAIM program, either as adopted in 2010 or as subsequently amended, ensures emissions reductions equivalent, in the aggregate, to the reductions anticipated from the direct application of reasonably available control technology on covered sources.

- The EPA is not acting on the following elements of the Plan:
  - Motor vehicle emissions budgets
  - Control Measure IND-01, also known as the "ports backstop measure."

#### Background

- In 2006, the EPA lowered the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards from 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Los Angeles-South Coast air basin continues to violate the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.
- The California Air Resources Board submitted the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan in February 2013 and revisions to the plan in March 2015.
- 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, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia. These particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs.
- Exposure to particle pollution is linked to a variety of significant health problems including damage to lung tissue, cancer and premature death.

**For More Information:** <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>