


To: Jim Provenza, Chair
and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Mat Ehrhardt, P.E., Executive Director/APCO 

Date: January 12, 2022

Subject: Informational Report – Ozone Planning

Recommended Action

This is an informational report. No action is required.

Background

The YSAQMD is part of the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) for the federal ozone standard. The SFNA has previously undergone planning efforts for both the 1997 and the 2008 8-hour ozone standards, for which the region was designated as severe nonattainment. In 2015, the EPA adopted a revised standard for ozone. This began a new planning process in the SFNA for this revised standard. The 2015 federal 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) lowered the health based limit for ambient ozone from a concentration of 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb averaged over eight hours.

The planning documents required for the 2015 ozone standard include:

- An Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) Plan (Attainment Plan) demonstrating how the region will attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS. This Attainment Plan is applicable to the entire region and is prepared collectively by the air districts of the SFNA;
- A Reasonable Available Control Technology (RACT) State Implementation Plan (SIP); and
- A Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR) Certification.

Previously, the District Board approved our RACT SIP in September 2020 and approved our NNSR Certification in June 2021.

The SFNA air districts have been working with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to finalize the emissions inventory for the design year of 2026. The emissions inventory includes projected emissions from mobile sources, area sources, and stationary sources of reactive organic compounds (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx), which are precursors to the formation of ozone. Once the emissions inventory is finalized, photochemical modeling will be performed by CARB to determine whether the region will meet the attainment deadline in 2027. At that point, the SFNA air districts will develop the Attainment Plan which must be adopted by each district's Board, submitted to ARB for approval and then to EPA for approval.