



Planning for Clean Air

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) develops air quality attainment plans that provide an overview of our air quality and sources of air pollution, and identify the pollution-control measures needed to meet clean-air standards. The schedule for plan development is outlined by state and/or federal requirements, and is influenced by our air quality. Our 2016 Ozone Plan affects the development of District rules and regulations and other programs. Our plans — formerly known as Clean Air Plans — also influence a range of activities outside the District, including transportation planning and allocation of monies designated for air-quality projects. The planning process proceeds as follows:

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** (U.S. EPA) and **California Air Resources Board** (ARB) develop and implement air quality standards and determine whether our county air is in attainment of those standards using the ambient air monitoring data collected through the District's 18-station monitoring network. Those agencies also specify the type of attainment plans needed, and set guidelines and requirements for the plan contents.

Working closely with the **District Community Advisory Council**, and the **Santa Barbara County Association of Governments**, District staff develop draft plans according to schedules outlined by U.S. EPA and ARB. After a **public review process**, District staff develop a final plan. The **District Board** adopts the plan and sends it to U.S. EPA and/or ARB for final approval.

Plans in Effect

The **2001 Clean Air Plan** was adopted by the District Board in November 2001 and addresses attainment of the state ozone standard, as well as attainment and maintenance of the federal ozone standard that was in effect at that time.

The **2016 Ozone Plan** was adopted by the District Board in October 2016. This plan is the eighth update to the District's 1991 Air Quality Attainment Plan, and addresses the California Clean Air Act requirements to plan for attainment and maintenance of the state one-hour and eight-hour ozone standards.

Attainment Classification

The term "Attainment Classification" refers to whether an area is in attainment of certain federal or state air quality standards, such as for the criteria pollutants ozone and particulate matter. Our attainment classification determines the schedule for our air quality planning efforts.

Based on current data, the county is in attainment of the new federal ozone standard (announced in October 2015); the U.S. EPA has indicated that attainment/non-attainment designations for the new standard will be made in October 2017.

The county does not meet the state eight-hour ozone standard or the state standard for PM10. Currently the county is "unclassified" for the state fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standard.

What's in an air quality attainment plan?

Our attainment plans include an overview of planning efforts; information on our air quality; an emissions inventory; proposed emission control measures; existing and proposed transportation control measures; emissions forecasts; and other topics as appropriate.

Emissions Trends

Over the past 20 years, both the population and the number of vehicle miles travelled throughout the county have increased annually. Despite this, the number of exceedances of the state eight-hour ozone standard have generally trended downward during that same 20-year period.

Cleaner air is a result of multiple efforts, including cleaner vehicles and fuels, fuel-efficiency improvements, emission controls on businesses and their equipment, product reformulation, and increased use of alternative transportation.

The next 20 years are expected to have more people living in the county and also more vehicle miles travelled as many commute for employment. However, our passenger and heavy-duty vehicle fleets will become cleaner as vehicle emission standards are phased in. In particular, California is aggressively pursuing a goal to have 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025.

At the state, federal, and international level, there has been action taken to dramatically reduce the pollution from marine shipping. However, it requires the action of everyone to ensure cleaner air in the future.

Of Interest

Plan Influence

Air quality attainment plans outline areas in which new rules or measures need to be developed and implemented. Our plans can influence other programs in the county, directly or indirectly, such as transportation planning, or the distribution of transportation funds that are earmarked for projects to improve air quality. Our plans are often referenced or cited in other environmental documents.

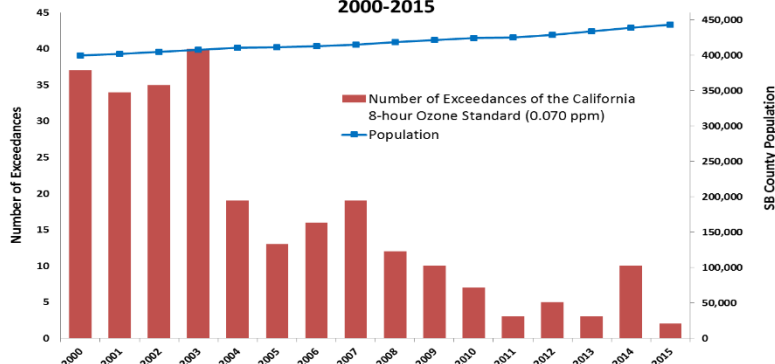
History

The District's first attainment plan for ozone was issued in 1979. We updated our plans in 1982, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016.

The Role of the District's Community Advisory Council

The District Community Advisory Council (CAC), made up of community representatives appointed by the District Board, reviews our air quality attainment plans, and suggests changes and issues for inclusion. CAC meetings are open to the public, and the CAC provides recommendations to the District Board.

**Santa Barbara County
Ozone Exceedance Days and Population
2000-2015**



Learn More

Visit www.OurAir.org/planning-clean-air to download our air quality attainment plans.