

**Proposed Approval of Coachella Valley's Plan to Attain the 1997 Ozone Standard**

October 19, 2016

**Summary**

- EPA is proposing to approve California's plan for the Coachella Valley ozone nonattainment area to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (1997 ozone standards).
- The plan addresses numerous requirements in the Clean Air Act and demonstrates that the area will attain by June 15, 2019, the attainment deadline for the Coachella Valley area.
- In today's action, EPA is approving the following elements of the plan for the Coachella Valley area.
  - Attainment demonstration.
  - Air quality modeling.
  - Reasonably available control measures.
  - Provisions for transportation control strategies and measures.
  - Rate of progress and reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations.
  - Transportation conformity motor vehicle emissions budgets.
  - Commitments for the air districts to adopt additional measures.

We are taking no action on the plan's contingency measures at this time.

**Background**

- Breathing air containing ozone can reduce lung function and increase respiratory symptoms, aggravating asthma or other respiratory conditions. Ozone exposure also has been associated with increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, medication use by asthmatics, and emergency department visits and hospital admissions for individuals with respiratory disease. Ozone exposure may also contribute to premature death, especially in people with heart and lung disease.
- Ground-level ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs are called ozone precursors. Motor vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, and chemical

solvents are the major sources of these chemicals. Ozone pollution is a concern especially when the weather conditions needed to form it, lots of sun and hot temperatures, occur.

- In June 15, 2004, EPA designated the Coachella Valley as nonattainment for the 1997 ozone standards based on air quality data from 2001 through 2003.
- Today's action only concerns the 1997 ozone standards. The State still needs to address the more stringent 2008 ozone standards.

### **Next Steps**

- Today's action will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and become effective 30 days after publication.

### **For More Information:**

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>