

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

EPA Determines that the Chico Area Attained the 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard

August 22, 2013

Summary

- EPA is taking final action to determine that the Chico nonattainment area has attained and continues to attain the 2006 Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS).
- Today's action signifies continued air quality improvement in California accomplished through the efforts of the air district, California Air Resources Board, and EPA to protect public health.
- This determination suspends certain air planning requirements for the Chico nonattainment area as long as it continues to meet the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Background

- EPA's determination is based upon complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data for the 2010-2012 time period.
- Today's final rule does not suspend all of the submittal requirements (e.g., new source review), and the official attainment status for the area remains nonattainment until the State submits and EPA approves a redesignation request and maintenance plan.

Particulate Matter and Public Health

- Reducing PM_{2.5} levels is essential because fine particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs and exposure is linked to a variety of significant health problems including damage to lung tissue, cancer and premature death.
- PM_{2.5} 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.

Next Steps

- Today's final 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>

