

## U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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### EPA Determination that Imperial County Has Attained the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle Standard And Approval of Emissions Inventories for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and its Precursors

January 03, 2017

#### Summary

- EPA is taking direct final action to determine that Imperial County has attained the 2006 24-hour national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). This is also referred to as a clean data determination.
- EPA's determination is based on complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data for the 2013-2015 time period.
- Preliminary 2016 data indicate the area continues to attain the 2006 24-hour NAAQS.
- As a consequence of this determination of attainment, certain CAA requirements related to attaining the NAAQS that apply to the Imperial County nonattainment area will be suspended for so long as the area continues to meet the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.
- We are also approving the 2008 base year inventories for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and its precursors that were submitted as part of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District's 2013 plan for attaining the 2006 24-hour NAAQS.

#### Particulate Matter and Public Health

- The NAAQS are standards for certain ambient air pollutants set by the EPA to protect public health and welfare. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is among the ambient air pollutants for which the EPA has established health-based standards.
- By penetrating deep in the lungs, PM<sub>2.5</sub> causes adverse health effects including lung damage, increased respiratory disease, and premature death. Children, the elderly, and people with asthma and heart conditions are the most vulnerable.
- Imperial County continues to violate the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS and the 24-hour NAAQS for coarse particles (PM<sub>10</sub>).

#### Next Steps

- Today's proposed action will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and will be effective 60 days after publication.
- We are also publishing a proposal to allow for public comment on this direct final approval action. If we receive adverse comments on this direct final rule that result in withdrawal of the rule, we will respond to those comments in a final rule.

For More Information, please visit <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/imperial/index.html>