



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0754; FRL-9514-02-R9]

Air Plan Approvals; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District, Imperial and Ventura County Air Pollution Control Districts; Nonattainment New Source Review; 2015 Ozone Standard

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to approve three state implementation plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the State of California addressing the nonattainment new source review (NNSR) requirements for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These SIP revisions address the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD or “District”), Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD or “District”), and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD or “District”) portions of the California SIP. This action is being taken pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA or “Act”) and its implementing regulations.

DATES: This rule is effective [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0754. All documents in the docket are listed on the <https://www.regulations.gov> web site. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through <https://www.regulations.gov>, or please contact the person identified in the **FOR**

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section for additional availability information. If you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with disabilities who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amita Muralidharan, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105. By phone: (415) 947-4140 or by email at *muralidharan.amita@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the EPA.

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I. Proposed Action

On April 14, 2022 (87 FR 22163), the EPA proposed to approve the SIP revisions listed in Table 1, addressing the NNSR requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS for the SCAQMD, ICAPCD, and VCAPCD.

TABLE 1 - SUBMITTED CERTIFICATION LETTERS

District	Adoption Date	Submittal Date
South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)	6/4/2021	8/3/2021
Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD)	6/22/2021	8/3/2021
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD)	6/8/2021	8/3/2021

We proposed approval of the submitted SIP revisions because we determined that the 2015 ozone certifications submitted by the Districts fulfill the 40 CFR 51.1314 revision requirement and meet the requirements of CAA section 110 and the minimum SIP requirements of 40 CFR 51.165. Our proposed action contains more information on the SIP revisions and our evaluation.

II. Public Comments

The EPA's proposed action provided a 30-day public comment period. During this period, we received one non-germane comment. A copy of the comment is in the docket for this action.

III. EPA Action

No comments were submitted during the 30-day public comment period that change our assessment from what we described in our proposed action. Therefore, as authorized in section 110(k)(3) of the Act, the EPA is approving these three certifications into the California SIP as proposed.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Clean Air Act, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 14094 (88 FR 21879, April 11, 2023);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4);

- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001); and
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the Clean Air Act.

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where the EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 FR 7629, Feb. 16, 1994) directs Federal agencies to identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects” of their actions on minority populations and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” The EPA further defines the term fair treatment to mean that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or programs and policies.”

The State did not evaluate environmental justice considerations as part of its SIP submittal; the CAA and applicable implementing regulations neither prohibit nor require such an evaluation. The EPA did not perform an EJ analysis and did not consider EJ in this action. Due to the nature of the action being taken here, this action is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the air quality of the affected area. Consideration of EJ is not required as part of this action, and there is no information in the record inconsistent with the stated goal of EO 12898 of achieving environmental justice for people of color, low-income populations, and Indigenous peoples.

This action is subject to the Congressional Review Act, and the EPA will submit a rule report to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by Reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: August 8, 2023.

Martha Guzman Aceves,
Regional Administrator,
Region IX.

Part 52, chapter I, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52 - APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Subpart F – California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraphs (c)(591)(ii)(B)(2), (c)(591)(ii)(C) and (D) to read as follows:

§52.220 Identification of plan-in part.

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(c) * * *

(591) * * *

(ii) * * *

(B) * * *

(2) “Final Certification of Nonattainment New Source Review and Clean Fuels for Boilers Compliance Demonstration for 2015 8-hour Ozone Standard,” excluding the “Clean Fuels for Boilers Compliance Demonstration,” adopted June 4, 2021.

(C) Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

(I) “Certification of the Nonattainment New Source Review Program Compliance Demonstration for the 2015 Federal Ozone Standard,” adopted June 8, 2021.

(2) [Reserved]

(D) Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.

(I) “The Certification of the Nonattainment New Source Review Permit Program for Imperial County Applicable to the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard,” adopted June 22, 2021.

(2) [Reserved]

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