



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664; FRL-13379-02-R9]

Attainment Date Extension for the South Coast, California 2012 Annual PM_{2.5} Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final action.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or “Agency”) is granting an extension of the “Serious” area attainment date for the Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin (“South Coast Air Basin” or “South Coast”) nonattainment area for the 2012 annual fine particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 µm in diameter (PM_{2.5}) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, based on a determination that the State has satisfied the statutory criteria for this extension.

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

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664. 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 a disability 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: Ashley Graham, Geographic Strategies and Modeling Section (AIR-2-2), EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; telephone number: (415) 972-3877; email address: *graham.ashleyr@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document, the use of “we,” “us,” or “our” is intended to refer to the EPA. We use multiple abbreviations and terms in this action. While this list may not be exhaustive, for ease of reading and for reference purposes, the EPA defines the following terms and acronyms here:

CAA or Act	Clean Air Act
CARB	California Air Resources Board
EPA or Agency	Environmental Protection Agency
MSM	most stringent measures
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 µm in diameter
SCAQMD or District	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SIP	State implementation plan

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I. Executive Summary

A. What Action is the EPA Taking?

The EPA is granting an extension of the Serious area attainment date for the South Coast Air Basin nonattainment area for the 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, based on a determination that the State has satisfied the statutory criteria for this extension.

B. What is the Legal Authority and What are the Requirements?

The EPA is granting the State's request for an attainment date extension pursuant to CAA section 188(e).

Under section 188(e) of the Act, a State may apply to the EPA for an extension of the Serious area attainment date by up to five years, which the EPA may grant if the State satisfies certain conditions. Before the EPA may extend the attainment date for a Serious area under CAA section 188(e), the State must:

- (1) Demonstrate that attainment by the Serious area attainment date is impracticable;
- (2) Demonstrate that it has complied with all requirements and commitments pertaining to the area in the implementation plan;
- (3) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the plan for the area includes the "most stringent measures" (MSM) that are included in the implementation plan of any State or are achieved in practice in any State, and can feasibly be implemented in the area;
- (4) Submit a modeled attainment demonstration showing attainment of the NAAQS in the area by the most expeditious alternative date practicable; and
- (5) Apply for an extension of the attainment date beyond the Serious area attainment date.¹

II. Background and Summary of the Proposed Action

On June 11, 2026,² the EPA proposed to grant a request from the State of California, submitted to the EPA on August 6, 2024,³ for an extension of the Serious area

¹ CAA section 188(e) and 40 CFR 51.1005(b). For a discussion of the EPA's interpretation of the requirements of CAA section 188(e), *see* 81 FR 58010, 58094 through 58097 (Aug. 24, 2016), and 59 FR 41998, 42002 (Aug. 16, 1994).

² 91 FR 35445 (June 11, 2026).

³ Letter dated August 5, 2024, from Steven S. Cliff, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board (CARB), to Martha Guzman, Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX, with enclosures (submitted electronically on August 6, 2024). Among the enclosures included with the State's request for an

attainment date for the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS for the South Coast Air Basin from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030. We proposed to grant the State's request for an extension of the area's attainment date based on a proposed determination that the State has satisfied the requirements for such extensions in Clean Air Act (CAA or "Act") section 188(e). In our proposed rule, we provided background information on the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, area designations and related State implementation plan (SIP) revision requirements under the CAA, relevant EPA guidance, and the EPA's implementing regulations for the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, referred to as the "PM_{2.5} SIP Requirements Rule."⁴ The proposed rule also provided a detailed discussion of the rationale for our proposed action.⁵

III. Public Comments and Responses

The public comment period for the proposed rulemaking opened on June 11, 2026, the date of its publication in the *Federal Register*, and closed on July 13, 2026.⁶ During this period, the EPA received two comment submissions from individual members of the public^{7,8} and a comment submission from SCAQMD.⁹ Additionally, SCAQMD notified the EPA via email of a typographical error in the proposed action.¹⁰

attainment date extension was the "South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2012 Annual PM_{2.5} Standard" ("2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan" or "Plan"), adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD or "District") on June 7, 2024, and by CARB on June 27, 2024. SCAQMD is the local air district with primary responsibility for developing a plan to attain the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the South Coast nonattainment area. The District works cooperatively with CARB in preparing these plans. The 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan addresses the Serious area nonattainment plan requirements for the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the South Coast nonattainment area.

⁴ "Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards: State Implementation Plan Requirements." 81 FR 58010 (Aug. 24, 2016).

⁵ 91 FR 35445 (June 11, 2026).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Comment submission received July 9, 2026, from Steven Singleton to Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664.

⁸ Comment submission received July 13, 2026, from Silvio Mazzella Jr. to Docket No. EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664. This comment fails to identify any specific issue that is germane to our proposed action.

⁹ Comment submission received July 10, 2026, to Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664, attaching a letter dated July 9, 2026, from Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District, to Mike Martucci, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, Subject: "Re: EPA Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2026-3664."

¹⁰ Email dated June 10, 2026, from Sang-Mi Lee, SCAQMD, to Ashley Graham, EPA Region IX, Subject: "Attainment Date Extension."

The three comment submissions and email from SCAQMD are included in the docket for this action. The comment submission from SCAQMD is supportive of the EPA's proposal to grant the attainment date extension and does not require a response. Additionally, one of comments received from the public is not germane to our action and also does not require a response.¹¹ A summary of the remaining comment submissions and our responses thereto follow.

Comment 1: The commenter states that the “population-exposed” factor under CAA section 188(e) “does not receive comparable treatment in the preamble” to the other discretionary CAA section 188(e) factors and that such factor “warrants an explicit finding.” The commenter asserts that the monitoring data in Table 2 of the EPA's proposal “shows the highest design values [are] concentrated at sites historically associated with environmental justice communities...[and] the record would benefit from an affirmative statement of who is exposed at the highest concentrations and for how long the extension leaves them there.” The commenter acknowledges that this factor is discretionary but asserts that “its omission from the preamble leaves no basis in the record for evaluating the extension's distributional impact,” and requests that the EPA supplement the record.

Response 1: As discussed in our proposal, the “population exposed to concentrations in excess of the standard” is among five factors identified in CAA section 188(e) that “the Administrator may consider” when determining whether to grant an attainment date extension for a Serious PM_{2.5} nonattainment area.¹² The proposal details the nature and extent of the nonattainment problem in the South Coast nonattainment area and the technological and economic feasibility of additional measures given the measures already adopted by CARB and the District. We concluded that “[t]hese factors generally

¹¹ See footnote 7.

¹² 91 FR 35445, 35454 (June 11, 2026).

support a longer time frame for attainment.” Because consideration of these additional factors in approving an attainment date extension under CAA section 188(e) is discretionary, we believe that the record in our proposal is sufficient to approve the extension.

Nonetheless, as discussed in the EPA’s proposal and as required pursuant to CAA section 188(e), California’s request for an attainment date extension for the South Coast Air Basin for the 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS was accompanied by a revised attainment plan for the area, referred to herein as the 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan. To meet the attainment planning requirements of the Act, the Plan includes, among other things, information on the spatial distributions of PM_{2.5} concentrations across the nonattainment area, both historically and as projected in the future.¹³ Additionally, although not required, Chapter 7 of the Plan, includes the State’s analysis of the distribution of air quality impacts across the South Coast Air Basin on various communities.¹⁴ The 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan is included in the docket and is therefore part of the record for this action. Thus, this information has been publicly available as the Agency has considered the State’s extension request. It was also publicly available during the State’s public process.

Comment 2: The commenter requests clarification regarding the connection between the EPA’s action on the extension request and the pending review of the attainment demonstration. The commenter notes that the EPA’s proposed rule does not provide a docket number or expected timeline for action on the Plan and asserts that the record would be strengthened by providing such information “so the public can track

¹³ 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan, Chapter 2 (“Air Quality”) and Chapter 5 (“Future Air Quality”).

¹⁴ Note that on January 21, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14173, “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”, directing Federal agencies to end illegal preferences in agency decision-making (90 FR 8633, Jan. 31, 2025). One of the effects of E.O. 14173 is that it revoked E.O. 12898 of February 11, 1994, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” which had previously directed Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law (59 FR 7629, Feb. 16, 1994).

whether the underlying 2030 demonstration is confirmed before the extension period elapses.”

Response 2: As noted in the EPA’s proposed action, the CAA does not require the EPA to act on the submitted attainment demonstration as a precondition to granting the extension, and we intend to act on the 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan in a future action.¹⁵ The EPA is reviewing the submitted attainment plan for the South Coast for the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. We will solicit public comment on our proposed action on the Plan, and the EPA’s proposed action will be made available at <https://www.regulations.gov> and will include a docket number for submitting and tracking public comment submissions.

Comment 3: Noting that the four measures adopted by the District to meet the MSM requirement must be fully implemented by January 1, 2030, the commenter asserts that there is limited time between when the measures must be implemented and when the effects of these measures will be assessed (*i.e.*, the proposed December 31, 2030 extended attainment deadline). The commenter asks that the EPA “consider requesting or committing to an interim reporting checkpoint, such as a 2028 progress update, so that emissions performance data can inform course correction well before the extension period closes rather than only at its end.”

Response 3: As discussed in the EPA’s proposed action, the EPA has interpreted the Act to require implementation of MSM as expeditiously as practicable and no later than one year before the extended Serious area attainment date identified by the State in its extension request.¹⁶ In this case, the State requested an extension of the attainment date under CAA section 188(e) to December 31, 2030. Thus, the State must provide for implementation of MSM no later than January 1, 2030.

¹⁵ 91 FR 35445, 35449 and 35453 (June 11, 2026).

¹⁶ 81 FR 58010, 58097 (Aug. 24, 2016).

To that end, we note that all four of the measures identified as MSM in the Plan are in effect in the South Coast Air Basin as the SCAQMD began implementing and enforcing the measures following approval by its Governing Board on September 5, 2025.¹⁷ Specifically, amendments to Rule 445 and the Rule 1133 series, amended to achieve additional PM_{2.5} reductions pursuant to control measures BCM-18 and BCM-10, respectively, are already being fully implemented. Amendments to Rules 223 and 1138, amended to achieve additional PM_{2.5} reductions pursuant to control measures BCM-08 and BCM-12, respectively, do include future compliance dates; however, all future compliance dates in these rules occur before the January 1, 2030 MSM implementation deadline.

Additionally, where the rule amendments include future compliance dates, SCAQMD's staff reports accompanying the rule amendments explain the District's justification for the later deadline. For example, SCAQMD explains that Rule 223 establishes a separate compliance timeline for the newly affected dairy facilities to allow sufficient time for these facilities to prepare and submit a permit application per the requirement in the rule,¹⁸ and that the 12-month grace period extending the exemption thresholds in Rule 1138 was included to provide owners or operators of chain-driven charbroilers time to acquire compliant equipment.¹⁹ We find these justifications to be reasonable and that the Plan provides for implementation of MSM as expeditiously as practicable.

To the extent that the commenter is concerned about the emissions reductions

¹⁷ CARB subsequently adopted the rule amendments in February 2026. As noted in footnote 63 of the EPA's proposal, these measures include BCM-08, "Emissions Reductions from Livestock Waste at Confined Animal Facilities;" BCM-10, "Emission Reductions from Direct Land Application of Chipped and Ground Uncomposted Greenwaste;" BCM-12, "Further Emission Reductions from Commercial Cooking;" and BCM-18, "Further Emission Reductions from Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Stoves." 91 FR 35445, 35453 (June 11, 2026).

¹⁸ SCAQMD, "Final Staff Report, Proposed Amended Rule 223 – Requirements For Confined Animal Facilities, September 2025," p. 2-2.

¹⁹ SCAQMD, "Final Staff Report, Proposed Amended Rule 1138 – Control of Emissions from Restaurant Operations, September 2025," p. 2-2.

from these measures being achieved as envisioned, we note that CAA section 189(c) requires that the State's attainment plan for the South Coast for the 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS contain quantitative milestones which are to be achieved every three years until the area is redesigned attainment and which demonstrate reasonable further progress toward attainment by the applicable attainment date. Quantitative milestones are required to provide an objective means to evaluate progress toward attainment. The CAA also requires a State to submit, within 90 days after each three-year quantitative milestone date, a milestone report that includes technical support sufficient to document completion statistics for appropriate milestones.

The State discusses its quantitative milestones to demonstrate continued compliance with the SIP for the South Coast for the 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS in Chapter 6 ("Federal Clean Air Act Requirements") of the 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan. The plan includes quantitative milestones for the years 2025, 2028, and 2031. With regard to a progress update in 2028 requested by the commenter, we note that SCAQMD has committed to report on the "[a]doption and implementation of applicable PM_{2.5} Plan measures according to the schedule specified in Chapter 4," which includes the four MSM measures listed in Table 4-2 and discussed in greater detail elsewhere in Chapter 4 ("Control Strategy") of the Plan. Thus, the District has already committed to a 2028 interim checkpoint as requested by the commenter.

Comment 4: The commenter requests clarification on whether the EPA independently evaluated the State's choice of a December 31, 2030 attainment date as opposed to an earlier date or if the maximum extension was granted solely on the basis of the State's evaluation.

Response 4: As discussed in the EPA's proposal, CAA section 188(e) requires that at the time of its application for an attainment date extension, the State must submit a

demonstration of attainment by the most expeditious alternative date practicable.²⁰ For the purposes of evaluating the State's extension request for the South Coast for the 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS, we reviewed the 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan to ensure that it contains the requisite demonstration, including the State's demonstration of attainment by 2030 and analysis concluding that attainment by 2029 would not be possible. Based on our review of the 2024 South Coast PM_{2.5} Plan, we find that the State had made such a submission.

Comment 5: In its email dated June 10, 2026, SCAQMD notes that the proposed rule contains a typographical error when referring to the Moderate area plan commitment for the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Specifically, the EPA's proposal indicates that the EPA had approved the District's commitment to achieve 7 tpd of direct PM_{2.5} emissions reductions by the 2022 reasonable further progress year, whereas SCAQMD notes that the proposal should have indicated 7 tpd of NO_x emissions reductions.

Response 5: The commenter correctly identifies a mistake in the proposal. While in several instances the EPA's June 11, 2026 proposal correctly refers to the commitment as having been for 7 tpd of NO_x emissions reductions, in one instance, the proposal indicates that the commitment was for 7 tpd of direct PM_{2.5} emissions reductions.²¹ The reference to direct PM_{2.5} instead of NO_x was in error.²² The EPA's evaluation of whether the State had complied with all requirements and commitments in the implementation plan was appropriately based on our analysis of the NO_x emissions reductions achieved in relation to the State's 7 tpd NO_x emissions reduction commitment. Thus, this error is harmless in that it did not have an impact on our determination. We appreciate the commenter bringing this mistake to our attention.

²⁰ 91 FR 35445, 35449 (June 11, 2026).

²¹ *Id.* at 35451. The language in the proposal referred to by the commenter is as follows: "As part of the EPA's November 9, 2020 final action on the 2016 PM_{2.5} Plan, the EPA approved, among other things, the District's commitment to achieve 7 tpd of direct PM_{2.5} emission reductions from these or substitute measures by the 2022 RFP milestone year."

²² See 85 FR 40026, 40040 (July 2, 2020).

IV. Final Action

For the reasons discussed in this final action, the EPA is granting the State's request for an extension of the Serious area attainment date from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, based on a conclusion that the State has satisfied the requirements for such an extension in CAA section 188(e).

V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Additional information about these statutes and Executive orders can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/laws-and-executive-orders>.

A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review and Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review

This action is not a significant regulatory action and was therefore not submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

B. Executive Order 14192: Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation

This action is not an Executive Order 14192 regulatory action because this action is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

This action does not impose an information collection burden under the PRA because this action does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)

I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the RFA. This action will not impose any requirements on small entities beyond those imposed by State law.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA)

This action does not contain any unfunded mandate as described in UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1531–1538, and does not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. This

action does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law.

Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or Tribal governments, or to the private sector, will result from this action.

F. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

This action does not have federalism implications. It will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

G. Executive Order 13175: Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

This action does not have Tribal implications. It will neither impose substantial direct costs on federally recognized Tribal governments nor preempt Tribal law. Thus, Executive Order 13175 does not apply to this action.

H. Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks

The EPA interprets Executive Order 13045 as applying only to those regulatory actions that concern environmental health or safety risks that the EPA has reason to believe may disproportionately affect children, per the definition of “covered regulatory action” in section 2-202 of the Executive order. This action is not subject to Executive Order 13045 because it does not concern an environmental health risk or safety risk.

I. Executive Order 13211: Actions that Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use

This action is not subject to Executive Order 13211, because it is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

J. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)

Section 12(d) of the NTTAA directs the EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable

law or otherwise impractical. The EPA believes that this action is not subject to the requirements of section 12(d) of the NTTAA because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA.

K. Congressional Review Act (CRA)

This action is subject to the CRA, 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).

L. Petitions for Judicial Review

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, 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 action 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* CAA section 307(b)(2)).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Ammonia, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen oxides, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: September 22, 2026.

Michael Martucci,
Acting Regional Administrator,
Region IX.