

## CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE IMPERIAL COUNTY 2013 STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2006 24-HOUR PM2.5 MODERATE NONATTAINMENT AREA

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider approval of the Imperial County 2013 State Implementation Plan for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 Moderate Nonattainment Area (Imperial PM2.5 Plan). If approved, ARB will submit it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

DATE: December 18, 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency  
Air Resources Board  
Byron Sher Auditorium  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

This item will be considered at a one-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., December 18, 2014. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before December 18, 2014, to determine the order on which this item will be considered.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The federal Clean Air Act (Act) establishes planning requirements for those areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These nonattainment areas must develop and implement a SIP that demonstrates how they will attain the NAAQS by a specified date. For international border areas, the Act contains a specific provision, Section 179B, that allows consideration of the impact of international cross-border transport of pollutants. Exceedances that occur due to international transport may cause violations of the standard; however, the Act does not require states to develop an attainment strategy addressing pollution that originates from sources beyond United States borders.

In 2006, U.S. EPA strengthened the 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS from 65 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . In 2009, U.S. EPA designated a portion of Imperial County as nonattainment for the 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hr PM2.5 standard based on PM2.5 data

at a monitor in Calexico located next to the border with Mexico. In a subsequent action in June of 2014, U.S. EPA classified this area as moderate, requiring a SIP submittal by the end of 2014. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District developed the Imperial PM2.5 Plan to address the moderate area requirements for this NAAQS.

The city of Calexico is adjacent to the international city of Mexicali with the violating monitor located within one mile of the border. Calexico is impacted daily by emissions from Mexicali. On a few days each year, that impact is exacerbated resulting in exceedances of the 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour PM2.5 standard. Between 2010 and 2012, the Calexico monitor measured PM2.5 concentrations that exceeded the PM2.5 NAAQS on five winter days. These days occurred during stagnant weather conditions which impede dispersion and facilitate the build-up of PM2.5 concentrations in the Calexico/Mexicali border area. The Imperial PM2.5 Plan includes extensive documentation showing that these five days were impacted by the international transport of pollutants. Absent the contribution of Mexicali emissions on these days, Imperial County would be in attainment of the 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour PM2.5 standard.

The Imperial PM2.5 Plan meets the Act requirements for a moderate PM2.5 nonattainment area and demonstrates attainment of the 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour PM2.5 standard but for transport of emissions from Mexicali, Mexico. The Imperial PM2.5 Plan consists of: 1) an emission inventory; 2) attainment demonstration; 3) transportation conformity budgets; 4) updated New Source Review rule; 5) analysis of Reasonably Available Control Measures and Technologies; and 6) quantitative milestones.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

ARB staff has reviewed the Imperial PM2.5 Plan and concluded that it meets applicable federal requirements of the Act for a moderate PM2.5 nonattainment area. ARB staff has determined that the Imperial PM2.5 Plan demonstrates how the Imperial County nonattainment area would have attained the PM2.5 standard in 2012 but for emissions from Mexico. Staff recommends that the Board approve the SIP and direct staff to submit it to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.

### **AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS**

ARB staff will prepare a written Staff Report prior to the meeting. Copies of the Staff Report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 I Street, First Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990, by December 8, 2014. This notice, the Staff Report, and the District's Implementation Plan may also be obtained from ARB's internet site at:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/planarea/imperial/imperialsip.htm>

## **SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS**

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the meeting and may provide comments by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments not physically submitted at the meeting, must be received **no later than 5:00 pm, December 15, 2014**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and verbal comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

ARB requests that written and email statements on this item be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have additional time to consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Mr. Webster Tasat, Manager of the Central Valley Air Quality Planning Section, Air Quality Planning and Science Division at (916) 323-4950, or Elizabeth Melgoza, Air Pollution Specialist, Air Quality Planning and Science Division at (916) 322-6161.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUEST**

Consistent with California Government Code Section 7296.2, special accommodation or language needs may be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the meeting;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language;
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled Board meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Consecuente con la sección 7296.2 del Código de Gobierno de California, una acomodación especial o necesidades lingüísticas pueden ser suministradas para cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia;
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo u otro idioma;
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax a (916) 322-3928 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de 10 días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD



---

Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

Date: November 18, 2014

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov).*