

# Update on Recent U.S. EPA Activities

---

Governing Board Meeting

April 4, 2025

# Background

- On March 12, EPA announced a series of deregulatory actions
  - Consistent with recent Presidential Executive Orders
- South Coast AQMD has been asked whether these actions affect current Clean Air Act obligations
- This presentation describes the deregulatory actions and how they interact with existing requirements to meet federal air quality standards



The screenshot shows the EPA website's news release page. At the top, the EPA logo and "United States Environmental Protection Agency" are displayed. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the logo, there is a navigation menu with links for "Environmental Topics", "Laws & Regulations", "Report a Violation", and "About EPA". The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: "Home / News Releases". On the left side, there is a "Related Links" section with the following text: "Headquarters | Office of the Administrator (AO)", "Read other EPA News Releases about Administrator", and a link "Contact Us about News Releases". The main headline is "EPA Launches Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History". Below the headline, the sub-headline reads "Administrator Zeldin Announces 31 Historic Actions to Power the Great American Comeback". The date "March 12, 2025" is displayed. At the bottom, the "Contact Information" section includes "EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)". A URL "https://www.epa.gov" is visible in the bottom left corner of the page.

# Examples of Proposed U.S. EPA Deregulatory Actions

## *Unleashing American Energy*

- Clean Power Plan 2.0
- Oil and gas industry regulations
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Program
- Risk Management Program affecting refineries and chemical facilities

## *Lowering the Cost of Living*

- GHG standards for vehicles
- GHG Endangerment Finding and subsequent regulations
- PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Multiple emission standards for energy and manufacturing sectors
- Regional Haze Program
- Environmental Justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offices

## *Advancing Cooperative Federalism*

- Good Neighbor Plan for ozone
- Exceptional events rulemaking to allow more prescribed fires
- Addressing Backlog of State Implementation Plans (SIPs)
- Reconstituting Science Advisory Board and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

# Impact of EPA's Announcement

Signals EPA's intent

Does not override or roll back existing regulatory requirements

- Existing rules can only be changed or rolled back through rulemaking
- EPA's rulemaking requires notice and comment, and is typically a multi-year process

Cannot override or nullify existing Clean Air Act requirements

- The federal Clean Air Act was authorized by Congress
- EPA cannot override express CAA requirements, even if conducted by rulemaking

# Potential Immediate Impact to South Coast AQMD

---

- No immediate impact
- Clean Air Act obligations and deadlines are still in effect and would require Congressional action to change
- Any announced deregulatory actions would require rulemaking and additional process to implement

# Potential Other Impact to South Coast AQMD



U.S. EPA's reconsideration of the 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup> standard could delay nonattainment designations and the 2027 AQMP



U.S. EPA's reconsideration of GHG standards and Clean Trucks Plan

- Potentially foregone NO<sub>x</sub> reductions (0.6 tons/day in 2030)



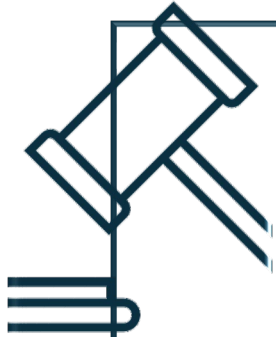
Cooperative federalism to resolve SIP backlog

- Some SIP revisions submitted to U.S. EPA passed the statutory due date to be acted on



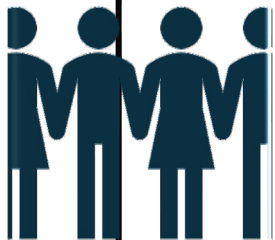
Revisit Exceptional Event Rule to reduce risks of wildfires

# Next Steps



South Coast AQMD must still meet federal air quality standards

- With fewer reductions from mobile sources, a greater burden will be placed on stationary sources and South Coast AQMD to makeup the shortfall



Staff will continue engaging with the congressional delegation, U.S. EPA headquarters, and the regional office to address South Coast AQMD's needs