



July 22, 2024

Joint Statement on Advancing Emissions Reductions in the South Coast Air Quality Management District

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is home to 17 million people where ozone levels continue to exceed the health-based national ambient air quality standards. Although air quality in the South Coast AQMD region has improved significantly since the 1970's as a result of substantial nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) emission reductions, the air pollutants that form ground-level ozone, challenges remain. Emissions from sources like aircraft, locomotives, ocean-going vessels, and nonroad engines will be an increasing fraction of total emissions of NOx in the South Coast AQMD region absent additional action by regulatory agencies. The significant additional emissions reductions needed to provide healthy air in the South Coast AQMD will take a sustained and collaborative effort at the local, state, and federal levels to reduce emissions from all sources – both mobile and stationary.

Today, the South Coast AQMD, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are re-committing to a long-term collaboration to reduce emissions from all sources utilizing agency specific authority for stationary and mobile sources.

The commitments from each Agency form a part of our shared strategy for attainment of the ozone standards established by EPA in 1997, 2008, and 2015 (see agency specific attachments). Jointly, the undersigned will work to reduce NOx emissions from aircraft, locomotives, ocean-going vessels, and nonroad engines, as well as stationary sources.

Through this long-term partnership, South Coast AQMD, CARB, and EPA will be taking steps to catalyze the emissions reductions needed to improve air quality for the 17 million residents of the South Coast AQMD region. The actions proposed by the three agencies will help attain federal air quality standards, and reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants, especially for people living in disproportionately impacted communities, many of which are located near ports, railyards, warehouses, freeways, and airports in the South Coast AQMD region.

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