



# CHAPTER 8

## Public Process

- **PM2.5 Plan development has been a multi-agency effort including the California Air Resources Board, Southern California Association of Governments and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.**
- **The PM2.5 Plan was developed through a robust and transparent process. Specific outreach efforts included:**
  - **Convening the AQMP Advisory Group and the Scientific, Technical, and Modeling Peer Review Advisory Group;**
  - **Holding regional public hearings;**
  - **Briefing the South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee and Governing Board on PM2.5 Plan development;**
  - **Providing meeting materials in Spanish and conducting public meetings in both English and Spanish languages; and**
  - **Conducting public meetings in both in-person and virtual formats, scheduled during both regular business hours and evening hours.**

## Introduction

Development of the PM2.5 Plan has been a regional multi-agency effort including South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), California Air Resource Board (CARB), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), U.S. EPA and other entities. Staff conducted robust public outreach efforts to engage the public and interested stakeholders, solicit feedback, and ensure transparency in the development of the Plan. The following describes specific outreach activities conducted by staff regarding the PM2.5 Plan.

## Outreach Program

As a public agency, South Coast AQMD is committed to transparency and public participation during the development of State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions. Outreach for the PM2.5 Plan aimed to achieve multiple goals including ensuring greater transparency in the process, reaching a broader and more diverse audience, and facilitating participation and engagement. The outreach program has been designed to inform the policy discussion by helping to ensure that all stakeholders have access to a common set of facts. Public awareness of federal requirements for PM2.5 SIPs and having appropriate background information are vital to engaging in a meaningful dialogue on the PM2.5 Plan.

Clean air goals cannot be achieved solely by the decisions and actions of South Coast AQMD. Stakeholder engagement is critical to the development of a successful plan. Stakeholders include community groups, businesses, environmental organizations, academia, and local, regional, state, and federal government entities. Table 8-1 lists specific stakeholder groups participating in PM2.5 Plan development.

**TABLE 8-1  
STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATING IN PM2.5 PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Stakeholder Category	Agency/Stakeholder Group
Public Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARB</li> <li>• U.S. EPA</li> </ul>
Local/Regional Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCAG</li> <li>• Councils of government/associated governments</li> <li>• Transportation commissions</li> </ul>
Special Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanitation districts</li> <li>• Water/power districts</li> </ul>
Community/Health/Environmental Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health departments/associations</li> <li>• Environmental justice organizations</li> <li>• Environmental advocacy groups</li> </ul>
Academia/Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Agency/Stakeholder Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National laboratories</li> </ul>
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Interested parties</li> </ul>
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy industry (electricity, petroleum production and refining, natural gas, biofuels, renewables, etc.)</li> <li>• Goods movement and logistics (warehousing, trucking, railroads, ports/shipping/freight)</li> <li>• Printing/coating industry</li> <li>• Airport/airline operations</li> <li>• Chambers of commerce/business councils</li> <li>• Trade associations</li> <li>• Labor organizations</li> <li>• Small businesses</li> </ul>

## Advisory Group Meetings

Staff convened the AQMP and Scientific, Technical, and Modeling Peer Review (STMPR) Advisory Groups to provide feedback and recommendations on the development of the PM2.5 Plan. Advisory Group meetings were conducted in a hybrid format with in-person participation required for Advisory Group members, while members of the public were allowed to provide comment in-person or remotely. Special accommodations were offered to those with disabilities or those requiring translation. Both Advisory Groups met periodically throughout PM2.5 Plan development as shown in Table 8-2.

The AQMP Advisory Group represents a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, such as large and small businesses, labor associations, government agencies, environmental and community groups, and academia. Together, the Advisory Groups reviewed the overall aspects of the PM2.5 Plan and made recommendations concerning emissions inventories, modeling, control measures, and socioeconomic impacts, including:

- Reviewing and providing comments on: (a) studies relevant to advancing scientific and technical knowledge in support of AQMP preparation; (b) emissions inventory development and modeling approaches; (c) the development of new and revised control measures; and (d) socioeconomic data and evaluations;
- Fostering coordinated approaches toward overall attainment strategies; and
- Assisting in resolving key technical issues.

The STMPR Advisory Group consists of experts in the field of socioeconomic modeling, air quality modeling, and atmospheric science. The duties of this advisory group included reviewing and providing

feedback on air quality modeling, socioeconomic modeling techniques and making recommendations for and comments on proposed modeling approaches for attainment demonstration, precursor analysis, near-road attainment approach and emissions inventory.

**TABLE 8-2  
ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS FOR THE PM2.5 PLAN**

Date	Meeting
5/25/2023	AQMP Advisory Group Meeting
7/13/2023	AQMP Advisory Group Meeting
8/3/2023	STMPR Advisory Group Meeting
10/11/2023	STMPR Advisory Group Meeting
11/8/2023	AQMP Advisory Group Meeting

### South Coast AQMD Governing Board Meetings

Before South Coast AQMD makes decisions that affect local residents and businesses, ideas and comments from the public must be considered. The opportunity to comment begins weeks prior to public workshops and ends with a public hearing by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, where the Governing Board may vote to adopt a plan as proposed or with changes. Anyone may testify or present written comments. Holding public workshops, recording oral and written comments, responding to those comments, publishing draft plans, holding public hearings and voting publicly are all based on set procedures. Documenting the process is necessary to ensure public participation, fairness, and an accurate account to which interested parties can refer to in the future. The Governing Board meets at South Coast AQMD's Diamond Bar headquarters on the first Friday of each month. In addition, select members from the South Coast AQMD Governing Board are also members of the Mobile Source Committee, which periodically reviewed PM2.5 Plan development. South Coast AQMD released the Draft PM2.5 Plan on March 22, 2024. Table 8-3 lists the South Coast AQMD Governing Board and Mobile Source Committee meetings in which PM2.5 Plan development was or will be discussed.

**TABLE 8-3**  
**SOUTH COAST AQMD GOVERNING BOARD ACTIVITIES FOR THE PM2.5 PLAN**

Date	Meeting
3/17/2023	South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee
10/20/2023	South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee
3/15/2024	South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Committee
4/5/2024	South Coast AQMD Governing Board Meeting
6/7/2024	South Coast AQMD Governing Board Meeting

## Regional Public Hearings

Regional public hearings are held prior to taking a proposed plan or other significant action to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board to allow public input before Governing Board members vote on plans. Regional public hearings for the PM2.5 Plan will be held in April – May 2024 as shown in Table 8-4. Meeting materials for the regional public hearings will be translated to Spanish and there will be one meeting that features live Spanish translation.

**TABLE 8-4**  
**SOUTH COAST AQMD REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE FOR THE PM2.5 PLAN**

Date	Meeting
4/23/2024	PM2.5 Plan Regional Public Hearing – San Bernardino County
4/24/2024	PM2.5 Plan Regional Public Hearing – Riverside County
4/25/2024	PM2.5 Plan Regional Public Hearing – Orange County
5/1/2024	PM2.5 Plan Regional Public Hearing – Los Angeles County

## Language Accommodations

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost 51% of the population in the counties under South Coast AQMD jurisdiction speaks a language other than English.<sup>1</sup> The Spanish language is the second most common language spoken after English, where about 35% of the population in the counties under South Coast AQMD jurisdiction speaks Spanish.<sup>2</sup> To facilitate greater participation and engagement of the public, including Spanish-speaking community members, South Coast AQMD staff posts a Spanish version

<sup>1</sup> 2022 American Community Survey:  
<https://data.census.gov/table?q=language&g=050XX00US06037,06059,06065,06071>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

of meeting notices, agendas, and presentations for key public meetings on the South Coast AQMD meeting webpages. Key public meetings include Regional Public Hearings and Governing Board meetings. Live Spanish translation will be provided at these meetings. Translation services are offered upon request for all other public meetings. In addition, most meetings are conducted via videoconferencing and closed captioning is available for deaf audiences.