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Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD Ahead of Schedule to Meet Ozone Health Standard

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Board of Directors today adopted a plan to meet the federal health standard for ground-level ozone pollution by 2024, two years ahead of its deadline, without the need for additional regulations for emission reductions.

The Federal Clean Air Act mandates that the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) meets a 2026 deadline to meet its 2008 health standard for ground-level ozone. The SFNA is comprised of Sacramento and Yolo counties, western portions of El Dorado and Placer counties, southern Sutter County and northeastern Solano County.

[>> Download the Ozone Plan on AirQuality.org](#)

“Meeting health standards for air pollution is our top priority,” said Donald Terry, the Chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD Board of Directors and Mayor of Rancho Cordova. “This plan gets us there two years early. We are showing our residents that you don’t have to compromise health or the environment while promoting a thriving economy.”

The El Dorado County AQMD, Feather River AQMD, Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and Yolo-Solano AQMD Boards of Directors are expected to approve the ozone plan in the coming months. When the region’s air districts adopt the plan, it will advance to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for review and final submittal to the U.S. EPA.

“Air pollution doesn’t respect borders. Everyone in the Sacramento region is in this fight for clean air together,” said Dr. Alberto Ayala, the Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer of the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. “The cooperation between the region’s five air districts and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments is exemplary. It is only by working together that we can achieve healthy air. We have much more work to do to mitigate air pollution impacts on some of our most vulnerable communities, but this is a very important step towards reaching our goals.”

Ground-level ozone peaks in the summer and is caused primarily by cars, trucks and other mobile sources. Exposure to ozone leads to health impacts including irritation of the throat and lungs, asthma attacks, chest pains and increased fatigue. Children, older adults, pregnant women and those with pulmonary or respiratory disease are especially vulnerable.

The Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD is the air pollution control agency covering all of Sacramento County. Its mission is to provide clean air for all. For more information, visit www.airquality.gov.