

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

EPA Determinations that Seven Areas in California have Attained the 1997 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

August 30, 2012

Summary

- EPA is determining that seven ozone nonattainment areas in California have attained and continue to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (1997 ozone NAAQS).
- The seven ozone nonattainment areas are: Amador and Calaveras Counties, Butte County, Kern County (Eastern Kern), Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties, Nevada County (Western Part), Sutter County (Sutter Buttes), and Ventura County.
- Today's action signifies a milestone of continued air quality improvement in California accomplished through the joint efforts of the air districts, Air Resources Board, and EPA to protect public health.
- EPA is also determining, as required in section 181(a)(2) of the Clean Air Act, that the Amador and Calaveras Counties, Butte County, Kern County (Eastern Kern), Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties, Nevada County (Western Part), and Sutter County (Sutter Buttes) nonattainment areas met their attainment deadlines for 1997 ozone NAAQS.
- This action suspends certain air planning requirements for these areas as long as they continue to meet the 1997 ozone NAAQS.

Background

- EPA's determination is based upon complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data.
- Today's action does not suspend all of the submittal requirements (e.g., new source review), and the official attainment status for each of the areas remains nonattainment until California submits and EPA approves a redesignation request, maintenance plan, and supporting documentation.
- Today's action only concerns the 1997 ozone NAAQS. The Amador County, Tuolumne County, and Sutter County (Sutter Buttes) areas are already attaining the more stringent 2008 ozone NAAQS. Additional progress is needed for the Butte County, Calaveras County, Kern County (Eastern Kern), Mariposa County, Nevada County (Western Part), and Ventura County nonattainment areas to also attain the more stringent 2008 ozone NAAQS.

Next Steps

- EPA is approving this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because we view this as a noncontroversial action. If we receive adverse comments, we will withdraw the rule and address public comments in a subsequent action.

For More Information:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>