

Air Quality Plans and Attainment Status

Air Quality Plans

Under the [Clean Air Act<1>](#), [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)<2>](#) establishes air quality standards to protect public health and the environment. EPA has set national air quality standards for the six principal air pollutants. These include: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NOx), ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO2).

When an area does not meet the air quality standard for one of the criteria pollutants, the area may be subject to the formal rulemaking process that designates the area as nonattainment.

The federal Clean Air Act requires states with areas failing to meet national ambient air quality standards to produce a State Implementation Plan (SIP).

A SIP is an enforceable plan developed at the state and local level that explains how the area will comply with air quality standards according to the federal [Clean Air Act<1>](#).

The SIP is the cumulative record of all air pollution strategies, state statutes, state and local rules and local ordinances implemented under Title I of the Clean Air Act by governmental agencies within the state.

In general, a state implementation plan will include historical background information, a description of the nonattainment area, assessment of air quality conditions and ambient air quality data for the area, an emissions inventory of sources of pollutants, control strategies, an attainment demonstration, and contingency provisions.

The first Arizona SIP submittal was in 1972.

Because there have been so many changes to federal, state and local air quality programs in the last 30 years, there is not a single definitive document that contains all of the SIP requirements. Rather than re-writing the entire SIP regularly, parts of the SIP are simply revised as needed.

Revisions are necessary when new federal or state requirements are enacted, when new data improves modeling techniques, when a

specific area's attainment status changes, or when an area fails to reach attainment.

Revisions to Arizona's SIP must be submitted to the EPA by the director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on behalf of the governor. Once approved by EPA as published in the Federal Register the provisions contained in the SIP revision become enforceable by the federal government as well as by the appropriate governmental entities of Arizona. The cumulative and complete record of SIP revisions that have been approved by EPA and federally enforceable in Arizona is called the "applicable Arizona SIP."

Attainment Status

Portions of Maricopa County have been designated nonattainment for three pollutants: carbon monoxide, particulates, and ozone.

[Maricopa County PM10 Nonattainment Area <3>](#)

[Maricopa County CO Nonattainment Area <4>](#)

[Maricopa County 1-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area <5>](#)

[Maricopa County 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area <6>](#)

[For more information, see Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Plans website for Phoenix <7>](#) [<link here to ADEQ website](#)
<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/plan/notmeet.html#phoenix>
which contains recent relevant documents pertaining to the Maricopa County Nonattainment Areas and Attainment Areas with Maintenance Plans

[EPA Region 9's Air Quality Actions <8>](#) website for recent EPA air quality actions for Arizona [<insert link here for](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions.html#arizona>.

[EPA Region 9's State Implementation Plan \(SIP\) web site <9>](#) which contains EPA Region 9's action logs for the federally enforceable applicable SIPS in Arizona [<insert link here for](#)
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/r9sips.nsf/allsips?Readform&state=arizona>
>. Action logs list the state and local air pollution regulations that EPA has incorporated into the applicable SIP under section 110 of the Clean

Air Act. In some cases, the actual text of the regulations may be attached.

Hard copies of SIPs are also available at the ADEQ main offices for review and SIP revisions completed by the MAG are available at their respective offices.

<1>Federal Clean Air Act (CAA)

Amended in 1990, the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) is the legal foundation for the national air pollution control program. The FCAA requires each state to produce and regularly update a State Implementation Plan. The FCAA also requires that SIPs include a description of control strategies, or measures to deal with pollution, for areas that fail to achieve national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). Finally, this Act grants powers of enforcement to the EPA.

<2> **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The Clean Air Act grants the EPA power to establish national air quality standards, to approve or reject SIPs, to replace SIPs with Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) when deemed necessary, and to monitor achievement of goals laid out in SIPs and FIPs.

[<3>Maricopa County PM10 Nonattainment Area](#)

The Phoenix metropolitan area is not currently meeting either the annual or the 24-hour health-based standard. Under the plan, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Maricopa County, and the local cities and towns will implement control measures for all the primary sources of airborne particulates. The primary sources of particulate pollution in the Phoenix area are windblown dust from construction sites, agricultural fields, unpaved parking lots and roads, disturbed vacant lots, and paved road dust. For more information, see [<7>ADEQ's Air Quality Plans Website for Phoenix](#), [<8>EPA Recent Air Quality Actions](#) and/or [<9>EPA Region 9's Action logs](#) for the federally enforceable applicable SIPS in Arizona.

<4>Maricopa County CO Nonattainment Area

On January 5, 2005, EPA finalized the rule to redesignate the Phoenix metropolitan area in Arizona to attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide (CO), as well as to approve the attainment demonstration and maintenance plan showing maintenance of the CO standard through 2015.

The Phoenix metropolitan area was originally designated as a moderate CO nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, with an attainment date of December 31, 1995. As a result of the area's failure to reach attainment by the end of 1995, EPA reclassified the area as a serious nonattainment area in 1996, with a new attainment date of December 31, 2000. The Phoenix metropolitan area has not had an exceedance of the CO standard since 1996. The area has been reporting clean data for CO for more than seven years. Cars and other gasoline-powered motor vehicles cause more than 75 percent of the Valley's CO. For more information, see <7> [ADEQ's Air Quality Plans Website for Phoenix](#), <8> [EPA Recent Air Quality Actions](#) and/or <9> [EPA Region 9's Action logs](#) for the federally enforceable applicable SIPS in Arizona.

[<5> Maricopa County 1-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area](#)

On May 20, 2005, EPA finalized the redesignation of the Phoenix metropolitan area to attainment of the 1-hour national air quality standard for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog, and approved the plan showing maintenance of the standard to 2015. Phoenix has not exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard in the last eight years, despite its growth into one of the country's major metropolitan areas. The State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions that EPA is approving include substitution of the clean fuel fleet program requirement with the cleaner burning gasoline program, adoption of the serious area 1-hour ozone plan, and adoption of the 1-hour ozone maintenance plan for the Phoenix metropolitan 1-hour ozone nonattainment area. We are approving Arizona's request to redesignate the Phoenix metropolitan 1-hour ozone nonattainment area from nonattainment to attainment. For more information, see [<7>ADEQ's Air Quality Plans Website for Phoenix](#), [<8>EPA Recent Air Quality Actions](#) and/or [<9>EPA Region 9's Action logs](#) for the federally enforceable applicable SIPS in Arizona.

[<6> Maricopa County 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area](#)

A portion of eastern Maricopa County and Apache Junction in Pinal County were designated nonattainment for the new 8-hour ozone standard on April 15, 2004. The designation is effective on June 15, 2004. EPA's rule for implementing the new standard requires that the Phoenix nonattainment area meet the standard by 2009. As part of the next steps in the implementation process, state and local agencies will work to develop a program to bring the area into attainment. For more information, see [<7>ADEQ's Air Quality Plans Website for Phoenix](#), [<8>EPA Recent Air Quality Actions](#) and/or [<9>EPA Region 9's Action logs](#) for the federally enforceable applicable SIPS in Arizona.

<7>"ADEQ's Air Quality Plans Website for Phoenix"

(<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/plan/notmeet.html#phoenix>)

Phoenix Area, Maricopa County

On Feb. 7, 1978, Governor Wesley Bolin designated the [Maricopa Association of Governments \(MAG\)](#) as the lead air quality planning organization for the Phoenix Metropolitan area. As the air quality planning agency, MAG, working with its member governments and agencies, is responsible for Arizona SIP requirements in the Phoenix Nonattainment areas. Plans produced by MAG are implemented and enforced by state and local governments in Arizona.

[Time Line](#) for Maricopa County nonattainment area SIP - CO, PM10 and Ozone.

PM10 Nonattainment Area

Emission Sources: The primary sources of particulate pollution in the Phoenix area are fugitive dust from paved roads, construction sites, and unpaved roads and windblown dust from agricultural fields, disturbed areas on construction sites and vacant lots.

Status: Maricopa County was reclassified as a serious PM-10 nonattainment area on June 10, 1996. On July 9, 1999, the [Maricopa Association of Governments \(MAG\)](#) submitted to EPA the [MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 \(Executive Summary\)](#), addressing both the 24-hour and annual standards. A revised plan was submitted in February 2000. The Plan included an extension request for attainment no later than Dec. 31, 2006. To address issues with agricultural sources, ADEQ submitted to EPA a SIP revision of the Agricultural PM-10 General Permit ([Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 2, §§ 609-611](#)), on July 11, 2000 and a subsequent SIP revision package for the Agricultural Best Management Practices program ([Maricopa County PM-10 Serious Area State Implementation Plan Revision Agricultural Best Management Practices](#)) on June 13, 2001. Another major control strategy is Maricopa County's [fugitive dust rule 310](#). On January 10, 2002, [EPA announced the approval](#) of Arizona's plan for attaining the annual and 24-hour standards for PM-10 in the metropolitan Phoenix area. EPA also granted a 5-year extension of the attainment date for both the 24-hour and annual PM-10 standards from Dec. 31, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2006. Both of these decisions were published in the Federal Register on July 25, 2002 ([67](#)

[FR 48718](#)). EPA granted the extension based on Arizona's showing that attainment by 2001 was not possible despite the implementation of the best available control measures.

Additionally, on July 2, 2002, EPA found that more work was needed to achieve attainment of the 24-hour standard in the area of the Salt River monitoring site. For more information on the "Salt River Study Area" see [Salt River PM10 State Implementation Plan Revision](#).

CO Nonattainment Area

Emission Sources: On-road mobile sources, non-road mobile sources, area sources (e.g. fuel combustion, on-site incineration, open burning, fireplaces and woodstoves).

Status: EPA reclassified Maricopa County as a serious CO nonattainment area on June 10, 1996. The [Maricopa Association of Governments \(MAG\)](#) submitted the required SIP to EPA on July 8, 1999. MAG submitted the [Revised MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan \(Executive Summary\)](#) on April 18, 2001. On October 9, 2001, EPA determined the Plan complete and on Sept. 22, 2003, found that the Phoenix area has attained the carbon monoxide standards. Approval of the plan is pending.

Ozone Nonattainment Area

Emission Sources: VOC and NOx emissions from point, nonroad, area, stationary, motor vehicle, and biogenic sources.

1-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area

Status: A portion of Maricopa County was classified as a moderate 1-hour ozone nonattainment area in the early 1990s. EPA reclassified the area as a "serious" ozone nonattainment area on [Nov. 16, 1997](#). ADEQ submitted the [Maricopa County Serious Area 1-hour Ozone SIP](#) to EPA in December 2000 to fulfill the attainment demonstration requirements. As there had been no violations of the 1-hour ozone standard since 1996, on [May 30, 2001](#), EPA found that Maricopa County had reached attainment for the 1-hour ozone standard. A maintenance plan and redesignation request developed by MAG was submitted to EPA on April 21, 2004. The [One-Hour Ozone Redesignation Request And Maintenance Plan For The Maricopa County Nonattainment Area](#) demonstrates how the Phoenix Metropolitan area

will maintain compliance with the 1-hour standard. For additional information regarding the Ozone Maintenance Plan, [contact MAG](#) ↗.

Effective June 15, 2004 (see [April 30, 2004 Federal Register](#)), the Phoenix area was designated nonattainment for the new more stringent 8-hour ozone standard. The 1-hour standard will be revoked one year following this effective date. However, certain of the control measures developed and implemented for the 1-hour standard are required to remain in place to ensure continued progress toward attainment of the new 8-hour standard.

8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area

Status: A portion of eastern Maricopa County and Apache Junction in Pinal County were designated nonattainment for the new 8-hour ozone standard on April 15, 2004. The designation is effective on June 15, 2004. EPA's rule for implementing the new standard requires that the Phoenix nonattainment area meet the standard by 2009. As part of the next steps in the implementation process, state and local agencies will work to develop a program to bring the area into attainment. For more information see [Air Quality Plans: 8-Hour Ozone](#).