

Glossary

AAQS (Ambient Air Quality Standards): Health and welfare based standards for clean outdoor air that identify the maximum acceptable average concentrations of air pollutants during a specified period of time. (See NAAQS.)

Acute Health Effect: An adverse health effect that occurs over a relatively short period of time (e.g., minutes or hours).

Aerosol: Particles of solid or liquid matter that can remain suspended in air for long periods of time because of their small size and light weight.

Air Pollutants: Amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects on humans, animals, vegetation, and/or materials.

Air Quality Simulation Model: A computer program that simulates the transport, dispersion, and transformation of compounds emitted into the air and can project the relationship between emissions and air quality.

Air Toxics: A generic term referring to a harmful chemical or group of chemicals in the air. Typically, substances that are especially harmful to health, such as those considered under U.S. EPA's hazardous air pollutant program or California's AB 1807 toxic air contaminant program, are considered to be air toxics. Technically, any compound that is in the air and has the potential to produce adverse health effects is an air toxic.

ATCM (Airborne Toxic Control Measure): A type of control measure, adopted by the CARB (Health and Safety Code Section 39666 et seq.), which reduces emissions of toxic air contaminants from nonvehicular sources.

Alternative Fuels: Fuels such as methanol, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas, and liquid propane gas that are cleaner burning and help to meet- mobile and stationary emission standards.

Ambient Air: The air occurring at a particular time and place outside of structures. Often used interchangeably with "outdoor" air.

APCD (Air Pollution Control District): A county agency with authority to regulate stationary, indirect, and area sources of air pollution (e.g., power plants, highway construction, and housing developments) within a given county, and governed by a district air pollution control board composed of the elected county supervisors and in most cases, representatives of cities within the district.

AQMD (Air Quality Management District): A group or portions of counties, or an individual county specified in law with authority to regulate stationary, indirect, and area sources of air pollution within the region and governed by a regional air pollution control board comprised mostly of elected officials from within the region.

AQMP (Air Quality Management Plan): A Plan prepared by an APCD/AQMD, for a county or region designated as a nonattainment area, for the purpose of bringing the area into compliance with the requirements of the national and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards. AQMPs designed to attain national ambient air quality standards are incorporated into the SIP.

Area-wide Sources (also known as "area" sources): Smaller sources of pollution, including permitted sources smaller than the districts's emission reporting threshold and those that do not receive permits (e.g., water heaters, gas furnace, fireplaces, woodstoves, architectural coatings) that often are typically associated with homes and non-industrial sources. The California Clean Air Act requires districts to include area sources in the development and implementation of the AQMPs.

Atmosphere: The gaseous mass or envelope surrounding the earth.

Attainment Area: A geographic area which is in compliance with the National and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS OR CAAQS).

Attainment Plan: In general, a plan that details the emission reducing control measures and their implementation schedule necessary to attain air quality standards. In particular, the federal Clean Air Act requires attainment plans for nonattainment areas; these plans must meet several requirements, including requirements related to enforceability and adoption deadlines.

BACT (Best Available Control Technology): The most up-to-date methods, systems, techniques, and production processes available to achieve the greatest feasible emission reductions for given regulated air pollutants and processes. BACT is a requirement of NSR (New Source Review) and PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration). BACT as used in federal law under PSD applies to permits for sources of attainment pollutants and other regulated pollutants is defined as an emission limitation based on the maximum degree of emissions reductions allowable taking into account energy, environmental & economic impacts and other costs. [(CAA Section 169(3)]. The term BACT as used in state law means an emission limitation that will achieve the lowest achievable emission rates, which means the most stringent of either the most stringent emission limits contained in the SIP for the class or category of source, (unless it is demonstrated that the limitation is not achievable) or the most stringent emission limit achieved in practice by that class in category of source. "BACT" under state law is more stringent than federal BACT and is equivalent to federal LAER (lowest achievable emission rate) which applies to nonattainment NSR permit actions.

BAR (Bureau of Automotive Repair): An agency of the California Department of Consumer Affairs that manages the implementation of the motor vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program.

Basin (South Coast Air Basin): Area bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. It includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

Carrying Capacity: Amount of allowable regional emissions that would still meet health-based air quality standards.

CAA (Federal Clean Air Act): A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990 which forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the Act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, air toxics standards, acid rain control measures, and enforcement provisions.

CAAQS (California Ambient Air Quality Standards): Standards set by the State of California for the maximum levels of air pollutants which can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare. These are more stringent than NAAQS.

CARB (California Air Resources Board): The State's lead air quality agency, consisting of a nine-member Governor-appointed board. It is responsible for attainment and maintenance of the State and federal air quality standards, and is primarily responsible for motor vehicle pollution control. It oversees county and regional air pollution management programs.

CCAA (California Clean Air Act): A California law passed in 1988 which provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations. A major element of the Act is the requirement that local APCDs/AQMDs in violation of state ambient air quality standards must prepare attainment plans which identify air quality problems, causes, trends, and actions to be taken to attain and maintain California's air quality standards by the earliest practicable date.

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act): A California law which sets forth a process for public agencies to make informed decisions on discretionary project approvals. The process aids decision makers to determine whether any environmental impacts are associated with a proposed project. It requires significant environmental impacts associated with a proposed project to be identified, disclosed, and mitigated to the maximum extent feasible.

CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons): Any of a number of substances consisting of chlorine, fluorine, and carbon. CFCs are used for refrigeration, foam packaging, solvents, and propellants. They have been found to cause depletion of the atmosphere's ozone layer.

Chronic Health Effect: An adverse health effect which occurs over a relatively long period of time (e.g., months or years).

CO (Carbon Monoxide): A colorless, odorless gas resulting from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. Over 80 percent of the CO emitted in urban areas is contributed by mobile sources. CO interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the body's tissues and results in numerous adverse health effects. CO is a criteria air pollutant.

CMAQ (Community Multiscale Air Quality Model): A computer modeling system designed to address air quality as a whole by including state-of-the-science capabilities for modeling multiple air quality issues, including tropospheric ozone, fine particles, toxics, acid deposition, and visibility degradation.

Conformity: Conformity is a process mandated in the federal Clean Air Act to insure that federal actions do not impede attainment of the federal health standards. General conformity sets out a process that requires federal agencies to demonstrate that their actions are air quality neutral or beneficial. Transportation conformity sets out a process that requires transportation projects that receive federal funding, approvals or permits to demonstrate that their actions are air quality neutral or beneficial and meet specified emissions budgets in the SIP.

Congestion Management Program: A state mandated program (Government Code Section 65089a) that requires each county to prepare a plan to relieve congestion and reduce air pollution.

Consumer Products: Products for consumer or industrial use such as detergents, cleaning compounds, polishes, lawn and garden products, personal care products, and automotive specialty products which are part of our everyday lives and, through consumer use, may produce air emissions which contribute to air pollution.

Contingency Measure: Contingency measures are statute-required back-up control measures to be implemented in the event of specific conditions. These conditions can include failure to meet interim milestone emission reduction targets or failure to attain the standard by the statutory attainment date. Both State and federal Clean Air Acts require that District plans include contingency measures.

Electric Vehicle: A motor vehicle which uses a battery-powered electric motor as the basis of its operation. Such vehicles emit virtually no air pollutants. Hybrid electric motor vehicles may operate using both electric and gasoline powered motors. Emissions from hybrid electric motor vehicles are also substantially lower than conventionally powered motor vehicles.

EMFAC: The EMISSION FACTOR model used by CARB to calculate on-road mobile vehicle emissions. The 2016 AQMP is based on the latest version, EMFAC2014.

Emission Inventory: An estimate of the amount of pollutants emitted from mobile and stationary sources into the atmosphere over a specific period such as a day or a year.

Emission Offset (also known as an emission trade-off): A regulatory requirement whereby approval of a new or modified stationary source of air pollution is conditional on the reduction of emissions from other existing stationary sources of air pollution or banked reductions. These reductions are required in addition to reductions required by BACT.

Emission Standard: The maximum amount of a pollutant that is allowed to be discharged from a polluting source such as an automobile or smoke stack.

FIP (Federal Implementation Plan): In the absence of an approved State Implementation Plan (SIP), a plan prepared by the U.S. EPA which provides measures that nonattainment areas must take to meet the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act.

Fugitive Dust: Dust particles which are introduced into the air through certain activities such as soil cultivation, off-road vehicles, or any vehicles operating on open fields or dirt roadways.

Goods Movement: An event that causes movement of commercial materials or stock typically at ports, airports, railways, highways, including dedicated truck lanes and logistics centers.

GHGs (Greenhouse Gases): A gas in an atmosphere that absorbs long-wave radiant energy reflected by the earth, which warms the atmosphere. GHGs also radiate long-wave radiation both upward to space and back down toward the surface of the earth. The downward part of this long-wave radiation absorbed by the atmosphere is known as the “greenhouse effect.”

HEV (Hybrid Electric Vehicles): Hybrids commercially available today combine an internal combustion engine with a battery and electric motor.

Hydrocarbon: Any of a large number of compounds containing various combinations of hydrogen and carbon atoms. They may be emitted into the air as a result of fossil fuel combustion, fuel volatilization, and solvent use, and are a major contributor to smog. (Also see VOC.)

HFCV (Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles): Vehicles that produce zero tailpipe emissions and run on compressed hydrogen fed into a fuel cell "stack" that produces electricity to power the vehicle.

Incentives: Tax credits, financial rebates/discounts, or non-monetary conveniences offered to encourage further use of advanced technology and alternative fuels for stationary and mobile sources.

Indirect Source: Any facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which generates or attracts mobile source activity that results in emissions of any pollutant (or precursor). Examples of indirect sources include employment sites, shopping centers, sports facilities, housing developments, airports, commercial and industrial development, and parking lots and garages.

Indirect Source Control Program: Rules, regulations, local ordinances and land use controls, and other regulatory strategies of air pollution control districts or local governments used to control or reduce emissions associated with new and existing indirect sources.

Inspection and Maintenance Program: A motor vehicle inspection program implemented by the BAR. It is designed to identify vehicles in need of maintenance and to assure the effectiveness of their emission control systems on a biennial basis. Enacted in 1979 and strengthened in 1990. (Also known as the "Smog Check" program.)

LEV (Low Emission Vehicle): A vehicle which is certified to meet the CARB 1994 emission standards for low emission vehicles.

Low NO_x Technologies: Refers to NO_x emissions approaching zero and will be delineated for individual source categories through the process of developing the Air Quality Management Plan/State Implementation Plan and subsequent control measures.

Maintenance Plan: In general, a plan that details the actions necessary to maintain air quality standards. In particular, the federal Clean Air Act requires maintenance plans for areas that have been redesignated as attainment areas.

Mobile Sources: Moving sources of air pollution such as automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, off-road vehicles, boats and airplanes.

Model Year: Model year refers to the actual annual production period (year) as determined by the manufacturer.

NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards): Standards set by the federal U.S. EPA for the maximum levels of air pollutants which can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare.

NO_x (Nitrogen Oxides, Oxides of Nitrogen): A general term pertaining to compounds of nitric acid (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and other oxides of nitrogen. Nitrogen oxides are typically created during combustion processes, and are major contributors to smog formation and acid deposition. NO₂ is a criteria air pollutant, and may result in numerous adverse health effects; it absorbs blue light, resulting in a brownish-red cast to the atmosphere and reduced visibility.

Nonattainment Area: A geographic area identified by the U.S. EPA and/or CARB as not meeting either NAAQS or CAAQS standards for a given pollutant.

NSR (New Source Review): A program used in development of permits for new or modified industrial facilities which are in a nonattainment area, and which emit nonattainment criteria air pollutants. The two major requirements of NSR are Best Available Control Technology and Emission Offsets.

Ozone: A strong smelling reactive toxic chemical gas consisting of three oxygen atoms. It is a product of the photochemical process involving the sun's energy. Ozone exists in the upper atmosphere ozone layer as well as at the earth's surface. Ozone at the earth's surface causes numerous adverse health effects and is a criteria air pollutant. It is a major component of smog.

Ozone Precursors: Chemicals such as hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, occurring either naturally or as a result of human activities, which contribute to the formation of ozone, a major component of smog.

PZEV (Partial Zero Emission Vehicle): A vehicle emissions rating within California's exhaust emission standards. Cars that are certified as PZEVs meet the Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle exhaust emission standard and has zero evaporative emissions from its fuel system.

Permit: Written authorization from a government agency (e.g., an air quality management district) that allows for the construction and/or operation of an emissions generating facility or its equipment within certain specified limits.

PEV (Plug-in Electric Vehicle): Vehicles that can be recharged from any external source of electricity and the electricity is stored in a rechargeable battery pack to drive or contribute to drive the wheels.

PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle): Vehicles similar to traditional hybrids but are also equipped with a larger, more advanced battery that allows the vehicle to be plugged in and recharged in addition to refueling with gasoline. This larger battery allows the car to drive on battery alone, gasoline alone, or a combination of electric and gasoline fuels.

PM (Particulate Matter): Solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols.

PM10 (Particulate Matter less than 10 microns): A major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols. The size of the particles (10 microns or smaller, about 0.0004 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs in the lungs where they may be deposited, resulting in adverse health effects. PM10 also causes visibility reduction and is a criteria air pollutant.

PM2.5 (Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns): A major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles, generally soot and aerosols. The size of the particles (2.5 microns or smaller, about 0.0001 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs deep in the lungs where they may cause adverse health effects, as noted in several recent studies. PM2.5 also causes visibility reduction and is a criteria air pollutant.

PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration): A program used in development of permits for new or modified industrial facilities in an area that is already in attainment. The intent is to prevent an attainment area from becoming a non-attainment area. This program, like require BACT as defined in the Clean Air Act and, if an AAQS is projected to be exceeded, Emission Offsets.

Public Workshop: A workshop held by a public agency for the purpose of informing the public and obtaining its input on the development of a regulatory action or control measure by that agency.

RTP (Regional Transportation Plan): The long-range transportation plan developed by the Southern California Association of Governments that provides a vision for transportation investments throughout the South Coast region. The RTP considers the role of transportation in the broader context of economic, mobility, environmental, and quality-of-life goals for the future, identifying regional transportation strategies to address regional mobility needs.

ROG (Reactive Organic Gas): A reactive chemical gas, composed of hydrocarbons, that may contribute to the formation of smog. Also sometimes referred to as Non-Methane Organic Compounds (NMOCs). (Also see VOC.)

SSAB (Salton Sea Air Basin): Area comprised of a central portion of Riverside County (the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County. The Riverside County portion of the SSAB is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains in the west and spans eastward up to the Palo Verde Valley.

SIP (State Implementation Plan): A document prepared by each state describing existing air quality conditions and measures which will be taken to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards. (see AQMP.)

Smog: A combination of smoke, ozone, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and other chemically reactive compounds which, under certain conditions of weather and sunlight, may result in a murky brown haze that causes adverse health effects. The primary source of smog in California is motor vehicles. (See Inspection and Maintenance Program.)

Smoke: A form of air pollution consisting primarily of particulate matter (i.e., particles). Other components of smoke include gaseous air pollutants such as hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide. Sources of smoke may include fossil fuel combustion, agricultural burning, and other combustion processes.

SO₂ (Sulfur Dioxide): A strong smelling, colorless gas that is formed by the combustion of fossil fuels. Ocean-going vessels, which may use oil high in sulfur content, can be major sources of SO₂. SO₂ and other sulfur oxides contribute to ambient PM_{2.5}. SO₂ is also a criteria pollutant.

Stationary Sources: Non-mobile sources such as power plants, refineries, and manufacturing facilities which emit air pollutants; can include area sources depending on context.

SULEV (Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle): A vehicle emissions rating within California's LEV 1 and LEV 2 exhaust emission standards.

SCS (Sustainable Communities Strategy): Planning element in the RTP that integrates land use and transportation strategies that will achieve CARB's GHG emissions reduction targets.

TAC (Toxic Air Contaminant): An air pollutant, identified in regulation by the CARB, which may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. TACs are considered under a different regulatory process (California Health and Safety Code Section 39650 et seq.) than pollutants subject to CAAQS. Health effects due to TACs may occur at extremely low levels, and it is typically difficult to identify levels of exposure which do not produce adverse health effects.

TCM (Transportation Control Measure): Under Health & Safety Code Section 40717, any control measure to reduce vehicle trips, vehicle use, vehicle miles traveled, vehicle idling, or traffic congestion for the purpose of reducing motor vehicle emissions. TCMs can include encouraging the use of carpools and mass transit. Under federal law, includes, but is not limited to those measures listed in CAA Section 108(f).

UFP (Ultrafine Particles): Particles with a diameter less than 0.1 μm (or 100 nm).

ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle): Vehicles with low emission ratings within California's LEV 1 or LEV 2 exhaust emission standards. The LEV 1 emission standards typically apply to cars from 1994–2003. The LEV 2 emission standards were adopted in 1998 and typically apply to cars from 2004–2010.

U.S. EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency): The federal agency charged with setting policy and guidelines, and carrying out legal mandates for the protection of national interests in environmental resources.

VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled): Total vehicle miles traveled by all or a subset of mobile sources.

Visibility: The distance that atmospheric conditions allow a person to see at a given time and location. Visibility reduction from air pollution is often due to the presence of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, as well as particulate matter.

VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds): Hydrocarbon compounds that exist in the ambient air. VOCs contribute to the formation of smog and/or may themselves be toxic. VOCs often have an odor, and some examples include gasoline, alcohol, and the solvents used in paints.

Zero Emission Technologies: Advanced technology or control equipment that generates zero end-use emissions from stationary or mobile source applications.

ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle): A vehicle that produces no emissions from the on-board source of power.