

## U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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### **Final Action on the San Joaquin Valley's Moderate Area Plan for the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standards August 16, 2016**

#### **Summary of Actions**

- The EPA is taking final action to approve elements of the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Air District's Moderate Area Plan (Plan) for the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- Specifically, the EPA is approving the following elements of the Plan:
  - The emission inventories in the Plan
  - The demonstration that the Plan provides for the implementation of reasonably available control measures (RACM)
  - The demonstration that even with these RACM, the SJV could not practicably attain by the Clean Air Act attainment deadline of December 31, 2015 for Moderate areas
  - The SJV Air District's commitments in the Plan to adopt specific rules by specific dates
  - The demonstration that the Plan provides for reasonable further progress
  - Transportation conformity budgets and a related inter-pollutant trading mechanism
- The EPA is disapproving the inter-pollutant trading ratio identified in the Plan for nonattainment new source review (NNSR) permitting purposes because the District did not provide a sufficient rationale to support the use of the ratio for NNSR purposes.

#### **Background**

- The EPA revised the 24-hour primary and secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS in 2006 from 65 micrograms per meter cubed ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The SJV violates the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at levels that are among the highest in the nation.
- The State of California submitted the SJV Air District's PM<sub>2.5</sub> Moderate Area Plan in 2012 and revisions to the Plan in 2014. The EPA proposed action on this Plan in December 2014, including a proposed reclassification of the area to Serious. The EPA reclassified the SJV area from Moderate to Serious in December 2015. As a Serious area, the State must submit a Serious area plan including, among other things, best available control measures and a demonstration of attainment no later than December 31, 2019.

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- PM<sub>2.5</sub> can be emitted directly into the atmosphere or formed in the atmosphere as a result of various chemical reactions from emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia. These particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs.
- Exposure to particle pollution is linked to a variety of significant health problems including damage to lung tissue, cancer and premature death.

### **For More Information:**

<https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/sjv-pm25/index.html>