

Agenda Date: January 15, 2015  
Agenda Placement: Admin  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning and Grants Supervisor (961-8838)

SUBJECT: Proposed Update of Federal Ozone Standard

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file an update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to update the eight-hour standard for ground-level ozone, and implications for Santa Barbara County.

### DISCUSSION:

Ground-level ozone is a principal component of smog. On November 25, 2014, the EPA proposed to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The current 8-hour ozone standard is 75 parts per billion (ppb), and the county has been designated attainment for the current standard. EPA has now proposed the 8-hour standard be set within a range of 65 to 70 ppb, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on our health. The proposal is open for comment through February 2015, and EPA has asked for comments on levels as low as 60 ppb and up to the current 75 ppb for the standard. EPA will hold public hearings and then make a final decision on the standard by October 1, 2015.

Once the standard is final, air quality monitoring data for a three-year period is used to determine attainment or non-attainment of the standard. EPA intends to use data from 2014-2016 to make final designations. The tentative date for final designations is October 1, 2017 (2 years after the standard is established). For areas designated nonattainment, air quality plans will have to be developed and submitted to EPA by 2020.

Attainment designations are based on the County "design value" as compared to the level of the standard. The design value is determined by considering ozone data over a period of three years at each ozone monitoring station. We are currently designated attainment because our design

value (over years 2012, 2013, and 2014) is 68 ppb, which falls below the current 75 ppb standard. Since the design value for the new standard will be based on years 2014, 2015, and 2016, it is not possible at this point in time to predict what our attainment status will be for the new standard. It depends on the level of the standard and our monitored air quality levels over the next two years.

Given that Santa Barbara County's current designation is attainment for the federal ozone standard, we currently have no planning requirements for the federal ozone standard. Our last federal Plan was completed in 2007 in order to demonstrate that we would continue to maintain the federal ozone standard. If the County is designated nonattainment in 2017, we will face new federal air quality planning requirements, including a specific timeline to reach attainment as well as federal transportation conformity requirements. Exact requirements would be specified in a future EPA implementation rule. If the County continues to be designated as attainment for ozone, no federal planning requirements are anticipated.