

Chapter 8: Progress Toward Attainment of the 2006 PM_{2.5} Standard

[Note: The evaluation being conducted to develop this plan is an ongoing work in progress, and will continue to be revised and updated throughout the public process.]

Summary

As required by EPA, the *2012 PM_{2.5} Plan* must demonstrate that the San Joaquin Valley will expeditiously attain the 2006 federal PM_{2.5} standard (initial attainment dates at December 14, 2014, with an extension up to December 14, 2019, if needed) . This demonstration is conducted through complex modeling and analysis that factor in current and future projected emissions in all sectors, meteorology, and atmospheric science to determine the needed emissions reductions and timeline for attainment of the standard. This chapter will provide the details of what was included in this exercise.

In addition, this plan must show that Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) will be made toward attaining the standard. The RFP analysis shows that incremental emissions reductions will be achieved prior to the final attainment year. This ensures that the public will experience improvements in air quality now and in the years to come as the projected attainment date draws nearer. The RFP demonstration will be presented in this chapter for future workshops once the analysis is complete.

Finally, this chapter will include a discussion of contingency measures. Under the Clean Air Act, all attainment plans must include contingency measures: extra control measures that go into effect without further regulatory action if planned emissions controls fail to reach the goals or targets specified in the attainment plan. These contingency provisions are used on an as-needed basis, only if further reductions are needed beyond the planned control strategy to meet the PM_{2.5} standard.