



The Clean Air Plan

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) issues Clean Air Plans that provide an overview of our air quality and sources of air pollution, and identify the pollution-control measures needed to meet clean-air standards. The schedule for plan development is outlined by state and federal requirements, and is influenced by our air quality.

Clean Air Plans affect the development of APCD's rules and regulations and other programs. These Plans also influence a range of activities outside the APCD, including transportation planning, allocation of monies designated for air-quality projects, and more. The Clean Air Plan process proceeds as follows.

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)** and the **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** develop and implement air quality standards, and, using the ambient air monitoring data collected at the nearly 20 stations around the county, determine whether our county air is in attainment of those standards (see "attainment classification" in sidebar). They also specify the type of Clean Air Plan needed, and set guidelines for the plan contents.

Working closely with the **APCD Community Advisory Council**, and the **Santa Barbara County Association of Governments**, APCD staff develop draft Clean Air Plans according to deadlines laid out by the USEPA and CARB.

After a **public review process**, APCD staff develop a final Clean Air Plan. The **APCD Board** then adopts the Plan and sends it on to the USEPA and/or the CARB for final approval.

Plans in Effect or in Process

2001 Clean Air Plan (Federal Clean Air Act)

This Plan, adopted by the APCD Board, and approved by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board, is in effect for federal standards. This is a six-year plan showing how the county will maintain attainment with the federal one-hour ozone standard. It also includes a three-year plan required by the state to show how the county will work toward meeting the state one-hour ozone standard.

2004 Clean Air Plan (Three-Year Update for California Clean Air Act)

This Plan was adopted by the APCD Board in December of 2004, and has been submitted to the California Air Resources Board. This Plan shows how the county will make progress towards meeting the state one-hour ozone standard (the 2001 Plan remains in effect for federal requirements).

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the term "attainment classification" mean? Why is it important?

"Attainment classification" refers to whether an area is in attainment of certain air quality standards.

Santa Barbara County is in attainment of the federal eight-hour ozone standard, but we do not meet the state one-hour ozone standard, and we expect we will also be considered in nonattainment of the state's new eight-hour ozone standard. We also do not meet the state standard for particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter (PM10). There is not enough data to determine attainment status for either the federal standard for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) or the state PM2.5 standard.

Our attainment classification drives our clean air planning process, identifying required emissions reductions, and determining the deadlines. For example, since our air meets the federal ozone standard, our 2001 Clean Air Plan for federal requirements is a six-year Plan that shows how our county will maintain attainment with the federal ozone standard.

What's in a Clean Air Plan?

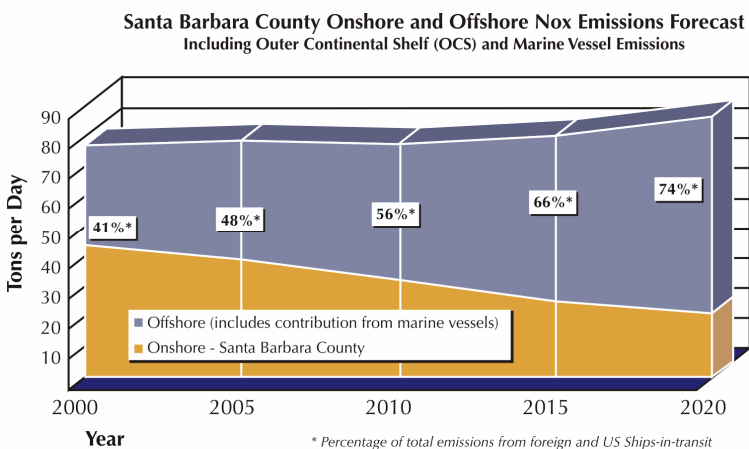
Our Clean Air Plans include: an overview of planning efforts; information on our air quality; an emissions inventory; existing and proposed emission control measures; existing and proposed transportation control measures; emissions forecasts; public comments; and other topics as appropriate.

Emissions Inventory and Forecasts

A Clean Air Plan includes a forecast of the pollution picture ten and twenty years out. The forecasting process sheds light on short-term and long-term issues and challenges for our county's air quality. For example, in preparing the emissions forecast for the 2001 Clean Air Plan, APCD determined that emissions from large ships going through the Santa Barbara Channel were largely uncontrolled and growing at an exponential rate.

This understanding was confirmed and expanded in the 2004 Clean Air Plan. As a result, APCD has been working with regional, state, national, and international agencies and organizations to promote projects to reduce these emissions.

The figure below illustrates the projected increasing nitrogen oxides (NOx) pollution from this source.



Of Interest

The Clean Air Plan Influence

Clean Air Plans outline areas in which new rules or measures need to be developed and implemented.

Plans can influence areas outside of APCD as well, directly or indirectly. For example, Clean Air Plans can influence transportation planning, or the distribution of transportation funds that are earmarked for projects to improve air quality. Clean Air Plans are often referenced or cited in other environmental documents.

Of Historical Interest

APCD's first Clean Air Plan was issued in 1979. We subsequently issued Plans in 1982, 1989, 1991, 1993 (a "Rate of Progress" Plan), 1994, 1998, 2001 and 2004.

The Role of APCD's Community Advisory Council

APCD's Community Advisory Council (CAC), made up of community representatives appointed by APCD's Board, reviews drafts of chapters of the Clean Air Plan, and suggests changes and issues for inclusion. The CAC invites public input on the Clean Air Plan process, and sometimes conducts public workshops on specific plan chapters or topic areas.

You Can Learn More...

Visit our website at www.sbcapcd.org/cap.htm to download Plans. Contact Jim Fredrickson at 805-961-8892 or fredricksonj@sbcapcd.org with questions, or to receive hard copies, or the Plan on a CD.