

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS
NOTICE OF RECLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR
COACHELLA VALLEY FOR 1997 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

2:00 p.m.
Palm Desert Civic Center Council Chamber
73510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

6:00 p.m.
Coachella Branch Library
1500 6th Street
Coachella, CA 92236
*Spanish interpretation will be provided
at this meeting.*

PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled the public consultation meetings for the purpose of soliciting information, comments, and suggestions from the public, affected businesses, and stakeholders regarding the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley for the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). The South Coast AQMD Governing Board will consider approval of the reclassification request for Coachella Valley at the South Coast AQMD Governing Board meeting on June 7, 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Coachella Valley is classified as a Severe-15 nonattainment area for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, with an attainment date of June 15, 2019. Although the air quality in the Coachella Valley area has steadily improved over the years, higher ozone levels were experienced throughout the State of California including in Coachella Valley in 2017 and 2018, resulting in levels greater than the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. Ozone levels in the Coachella Valley are primarily impacted by pollutants directly transported from the South Coast Air Basin. Because of the recent high ozone levels, the Coachella Valley will not be able to meet the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by June 2019.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Given that additional time is needed to bring the Coachella Valley into attainment of the 1997 8-hour standard, staff is recommending to submit a formal request to U.S. EPA to reclassify the Coachella Valley from Severe to Extreme for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard based on the monitoring data indicating attainment is not practicable by the current attainment date. The reclassification will ensure that the Coachella Valley will be given the needed extension of the attainment date to make attainment feasible, and alleviate the consequences of failure to attain the standard including, but not limited to, fees imposed on major stationary sources. The reclassification will change the threshold for major stationary sources from a potential to emit 25 tons per year (tpy) to 10 tons tpy of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) or volatile organic compounds (VOC)

which would be subject to the applicable requirements in Title V permitting and the New Source Review Program.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following supporting document will be available starting on April 17, 2019, on South Coast AQMD's website under the Air Quality Management Plan section at:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>

- Request for Reclassification of Coachella Valley for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard Staff Report

Copies of the above document may also be reviewed in the South Coast AQMD library or by contacting:

Fabian Wesson
Public Information Center
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2039
Email: PICrequests@aqmd.gov

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS OR COMMENTS

You are invited to attend the public consultation meetings. You may also send questions, comments, documents, or other information relevant to the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley to:

Kelly Trainor Gamino
Air Quality Specialist
South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2382
Email: kgamino@aqmd.gov

Written comments relating to the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley should be submitted no later than Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

The Governing Board meeting to consider approval of the voluntary reclassification request for Coachella Valley is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2019, at 9 a.m. in the auditorium at South Coast AQMD's Diamond Bar Headquarters.