

Ozone Planning - Technical Terms

Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – Local agency charged with controlling air pollution and attaining health-based air quality standards. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional AQMD that includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties and the southern portions of Solano and Sonoma Counties.

Air Quality Standard – A measureable amount of air pollution that is determined to protect public health. The federal and state governments both develop and adopt air quality standards.

Air Resources Board (ARB) – The State of California agency responsible for air pollution control. Responsibilities include: establishing State ambient air quality standards; setting allowable emission levels for motor vehicles, fuels and consumer products in California; and oversight of local air quality management districts.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – Nine-county San Francisco Bay Area regional planning agency that works to solve problems in areas such as land use, housing, environmental quality, and economic development. ABAG is one of the cooperating agencies in the federal and state ozone planning processes.

Clean Air Plan (CAP) – State-approved plan for attaining the state ambient air quality standards in accordance with the California Clean Air Act. The Bay Area's most recent CAP is the *2000 CAP*.

Control Measure – A regulation, policy, or program that is intended to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants.

Control Strategy – A comprehensive group of control measures approved by either the federal or state government to achieve the appropriate air quality standard. A control strategy usually includes stationary source measures, mobile source measures and transportation control measures.

Criteria Air Pollutants – Air pollutants for which the federal or State government has established ambient air quality standards, or criteria, for outdoor concentration in order to protect public health. Criteria pollutants include: ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, and lead.

Emissions Inventory – A calculation of the amount of air pollutants emitted into an area's atmosphere, in amounts (pounds or tons) per day or year, by type of source.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The federal agency responsible for control of air and water pollution, toxic substances, solid waste, and cleanup of contaminated sites. EPA regulates pollution from cars and trucks, aircraft, trains, ships, farm and construction equipment, and fuels.

Exceedance – A measured concentration of any air contaminant higher than national or state ambient air quality standards.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) - The transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC is one of the cooperating agencies in the federal and state ozone planning processes. MTC helps implement transportation control measures.

Mobile Source – Any vehicle that produces air pollution, such as cars, trucks and motorcycles (on-road mobile sources) or airplanes, boats, trains and construction equipment (off-road mobile sources).

Mobile Source Measure - A regulation, policy, or program that is intended to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants from vehicle engines.

Modeling – A scientific process of understanding how air pollution is formed that takes into account meteorology and emissions in order to determine how much pollution needs to be reduced in order to meet federal and state ambient air quality standards.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) – Gases formed from elements in the atmosphere, mainly when combustion takes place under high temperature and high pressure conditions.

Non-Attainment Area – A geographic area that does not meet one or more of the ambient air quality standards for the criteria pollutants designated by the federal or state agencies.

Ozone (O₃) – An odorless, colorless, highly reactive gas. A product of complex chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and organic gases, in the presence of sunlight. Lower atmospheric ozone is a criteria air pollutant that is harmful to human health. In the upper stratosphere (10-20 miles above earth), ozone helps shield the earth from ultraviolet radiation.

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) – Organic compounds that react with nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere to form ozone. Some main sources of ROG include fuels, motor vehicles, and solvents.

Rule Development – The development of regulations to limit emissions from specific types of industry to improve air quality and protect public health.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) – EPA-approved state plans for attaining and maintaining federal air quality standards. The Bay Area's most recent SIP is the 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan.

Stationary Source – A fixed, non-mobile source of air pollution, usually at industrial or commercial facilities. Examples include: refineries, incinerators, auto body shops, and dry cleaners.

Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) – A project that is beneficial to air quality which is funded by the Air District with funds collected and designated in settlements of enforcement cases.

Transportation Control Measure (TCM) – Measures to reduce congestion and decrease air pollutant emissions from motor vehicles by reducing vehicle use. Examples include: encouraging more public transit, carpooling, biking and walking.