



Bay Area 2009 Clean Air Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What is a clean air plan?

A clean air plan is a comprehensive strategy to reduce air pollution from both stationary sources, such as factories and refineries, and mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, and construction equipment. The goal of a clean air plan is to reduce air pollution in order to attain air quality standards and protect public health. The Bay Area currently exceeds state ozone standards and must prepare a plan to meet these standards.

The Bay Area Quality Management District (District) is currently preparing the *Bay Area 2009 Clean Air Plan (Plan)*, an update to the *Bay Area 2005 Ozone Strategy*. The District will develop the Plan in association with its regional agency partners, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The Plan will:

- Review progress in improving Bay Area air quality to date.
- Establish a control strategy including “all feasible measures” to achieve state ozone standards by the earliest practicable date and reduce transport of ozone precursors to neighboring air basins.
- Address ozone, particulate matter, air toxics, and greenhouse gas emissions in a single integrated plan.

The *Bay Area 2009 Clean Air Plan* is scheduled for adoption by the District Board of Directors in fall 2009.

Why does the Bay Area 2009 Clean Air Plan matter to me?

Good air quality is important for the health of you and your family. The Plan offers an opportunity to learn about progress to date in reducing air pollution and the trends and challenges we face in continuing to improve air quality. We want to hear your ideas about how to reduce emissions to help us develop a Plan that will provide the greatest air quality and public health benefit for your community and the entire region.

What is new about the Bay Area 2009 Clean Air Plan?

Past air quality plans have focused on a single pollutant, usually ozone. In the 2009 Plan, the District will address multiple pollutants in a single integrated plan. The Plan will reduce ozone precursors, as well as particulate matter (PM), toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases, in order to improve public health and protect our environment and climate.

What are the air quality conditions in the Bay Area?

Air quality in the Bay Area has improved significantly in recent years, due to tight regulation of emissions from stationary sources and motor vehicles. Ozone levels, measured by the number of days the region exceeds ozone standards, have declined substantially over the past 40 years. Despite this progress, the Bay Area continues to exceed state and/or national ozone and PM standards on a limited number of days. In addition, both state and national air quality standards are becoming more stringent, and global warming may worsen air quality, so it is essential that we continue our efforts to reduce air pollution.

How will the Plan improve air quality?

The Plan will include measures to reduce emissions from both stationary sources and mobile sources. Although the District has made great strides in reducing emissions from stationary sources such as factories, refineries, and dry cleaners, the Plan will propose measures to further tighten controls on stationary sources. Mobile sources – cars, trucks, construction equipment, etc. – are the largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gases in the Bay Area. Reducing emissions from mobile sources, even as population and motor vehicle use continue to increase, is a key challenge for the region. To help offset the additional emissions due to increased vehicle use, the Plan will include transportation and mobile control measures to reduce motor vehicle travel and promote walking, biking, transit, and the use of clean vehicles and fuels.



Bay 2009 Area Clean Air Plan Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

Air Quality Regulation: Who Does What?

	Who	What
National	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Sets national ambient air quality standards for six criteria pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead. ◇ Oversees State air quality programs to meet standards. ◇ Adopts regulations for federal sources including locomotives, aircraft, and ships.
State	California Air Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Sets state air quality standards for key pollutants. ◇ Oversees local air pollution control programs. ◇ Establishes emission standards for motor vehicles, fuels, and consumer products sold in California.
Regional / Local	Bay Area Air Quality Management District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Prepares plans to achieve air quality standards. ◇ Regulates and issues permits for stationary sources. ◇ Offers grants and incentive programs to reduce emissions from mobile sources. ◇ Implements <i>Spare the Air</i> program to encourage citizens and businesses to reduce emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. ◇ Works with partner agencies to coordinate land use, transportation, and air quality planning.

How can I get involved?

We value your input. There are a variety of ways to learn more about the Plan and offer your ideas.

- **Get connected.** Join the list serve at the website below to stay updated on Plan progress and milestones.
- **Attend a meeting.** For our workshop schedule, visit the Plan website below. All workshops provide opportunities to offer verbal or written comments.
- **Provide written input.** Submit your comments on the plan process, control measures, and other relevant issues. Please submit comments via email or U.S. mail to David Burch (see below).

For more information, see the Plan website:

http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/plans/ozone/2009_strategy/index.htm

Contact:

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In cooperation with:



Association of
Bay Area Governments

Air Pollution and Your Health

Three types of air pollutants contribute to health problems in the Bay Area: ozone, particulate matter, and toxic air contaminants.

Ozone: Ground-level ozone is commonly known as smog. Ozone is not directly emitted into the air; instead, it is formed when ozone precursors, nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. NOx and VOCs are emitted by motor vehicles, industrial facilities, and consumer products. Ozone exposure can cause chest pain, coughing, and respiratory diseases.

Particulate Matter (PM): PM consists of tiny particles or liquid droplets suspended in the air that can penetrate deep into our lungs. Health studies show that exposure to PM can cause serious health effects, including respiratory diseases, lung damage, and premature death. PM is emitted directly into the air, and also formed from reactions of gaseous pollutants. Sources of PM include diesel engines, wood smoke, industrial facilities, and construction.

Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs): TACS are pollutants that can cause serious health effects even in low concentrations. Highly toxic TACs, like benzene and hexavalent chromium, can cause severe health problems including cancer, birth defects, and brain damage. Diesel particulate matter (PM emitted from diesel engines) is the most prevalent TAC in the Bay Area and the state.