



FAQS Regulation 13: Climate Pollutants

Why is the Air District developing this new regulation?

The Air District has set ambitious goals to combat climate change by aiming to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. In conjunction with information-based planning and incentives, the Air District is developing rules to address emissions of climate pollutants, which include GHGs as well as other matter and particulates that affect the climate. Draft Regulation 13 would serve as an overarching regulation for a series of rules that the Air District plans to develop in the near and longer term, and will include the necessary terms and definitions, methods, and general requirements for climate pollutant regulation.

What are the key elements of this regulation?

Draft Reg. 13 would serve as an umbrella regulation for climate pollutant rules and would be a repository of terms, methods, and requirements that these related rules would reference.

How does this regulation relate to other rules on climate change?

Draft Reg. 13 is the introductory regulation for source- and pollutant-specific rules in the series. Draft Reg. 13 would be a standalone regulation similar in purpose to Regulation 1: General Provisions & Definitions, and Regulation 6: Common Definitions and Test Methods (for particulate matter).

Would this draft regulation regulate specific climate pollutants?

Draft Reg. 13 would identify general terms, meth-

ods, and requirements that are relevant to regulating climate pollutant emissions in the Bay Area. Specific rules on pollutants and/or processes would be achieved through rulemaking under the umbrella of Reg. 13. The Air District plans to address large emissions of climate pollutants, those pollutants that are the most potent climate forcing agents. Because climate change regulation is still a relatively new field, Draft Reg.13 may be amended in the future to incorporate new terms, methods or requirements.

What is the Air District's authority to regulate climate pollutant emissions?

The Air District has authority to regulate climate pollutant emissions under the California Health and Safety Code (H&SC). Assembly Bill 398 removed air districts' authority to require reductions in CO₂ emissions from facilities subject to the state Cap-and-Trade Program, but allowed for the regulation of "emissions associated with landfills, refrigerants, natural gas or methane, volatile organic compounds," or to comply with the federal Clean Air Act.

What are the next steps in the rule adoption process and how can I learn more?

The Air District will be holding public workshops in November 2018 and convening an internal working group as the proposed regulation is developed. The draft regulation is scheduled to go to the Board of Directors for adoption in early 2020. More details can be found at www.baaqmd.gov/ruledev, or by contacting Jacob Finkle 415-749-8435, jfinkle@baaqmd.gov.