

## *Clean Air Act State Implementation Plans Fact Sheet*

### **What is a State Implementation Plan, or SIP?**

A State Implementation Plan (SIP) is a collection of regulations and documents used by a state, territory, or local air district to implement, maintain, and enforce the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and to fulfill other requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA). SIPs in states with areas that do not meet the NAAQS, designated as “nonattainment” areas, must include additional requirements to reduce air pollution and provide for attainment of the standards.

### **What are NAAQS?**

The EPA periodically reviews and establishes health-based NAAQS for specific pollutants, as required by the CAA. Standards are established for six “criteria” pollutants, which are widespread common pollutants known to be harmful to human health. These pollutants are carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead.

### **What is the District and CARB’s role?**

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) is responsible for preparing attainment plans for each nonattainment criteria pollutant (ozone and PM2.5) for which it does not meet the standard. The District works closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop these plans and establish the strategies that the District will use to attain the federal standards as expeditiously as practicable. Plans are prepared through an involved public process with opportunities for the public and interested stakeholders to offer comments and suggestions. Upon adoption by the District’s Governing Board, the plans are transmitted to CARB for approval and then to EPA for incorporation into the SIP. Following the adoption of each attainment plan, the District implements plan strategies through regulatory development, outreach, continued research, and incentive programs.

### **What is EPA’s role?**

The CAA requires EPA to review and approve all SIPs that meet CAA requirements. There are opportunities for public comment during the development of each SIP.

### **What is included in an attainment plan?**

The District’s plans include emissions inventories that identify sources of air pollutants, evaluations for feasibility of implementing potential opportunities to reduce emissions, sophisticated computer modeling to estimate future levels of pollution, and a strategy for how air pollution will be further reduced. District plans also include innovative alternative strategies for accelerating attainment through non-regulatory measures such as incentive programs; technology advancement programs; the District’s legislative platform; community outreach and education programs; and additional strategies such as energy efficiency, eco-driving, green purchasing and contracting, supporting urban heat island mitigation efforts, and encouraging cleaner methods of generating electrical energy and mechanical power.