

Appendix A

Glossary

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AAQS (Ambient Air Quality Standards): Health and welfare based standards for clean outdoor air that identify the maximum acceptable average concentrations of air pollutants during a specified period of time. (See NAAQS)

Air Pollutants: Amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects on humans, animals, vegetation, and/or materials.

Ambient Air: The air occurring at a particular time and place outside of structures. Often used interchangeably with "outdoor" air.

APCD (Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District): The regional agency with authority to regulate stationary, indirect, and area sources of air pollution (e.g., power plants, highway construction, and housing developments) within Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties, and governed by a district air pollution control board composed of the elected county supervisors and representatives of cities within the district.

AQMP (Air Quality Management Plan): A Plan prepared by an APCD, for a county or region designated as a nonattainment area, for the purpose of bringing the area into compliance with the requirements of the national and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards. AQMPs designed to attain national ambient air quality standards are incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Attainment: Compliance with the National and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS OR CAAQS).

CAA (Federal Clean Air Act): A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990 which forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, air toxics standards, acid rain control measures, and enforcement provisions.

California Ambient Air Quality Standard: Standards set by the State of California for the maximum levels of air pollutants which can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare. These are generally more stringent than NAAQS.

CARB (California Air Resources Board): The State's lead air quality agency, consisting of a nine-member Governor-appointed board. It is responsible for attainment and maintenance of the State and federal air quality standards, and is primarily responsible for motor vehicle pollution control. It oversees county and regional air pollution management programs.

Emission Standard: The maximum amount of a pollutant that is allowed to be discharged from a polluting source such as an automobile or chimney.

GBUAPCD: The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

Indirect Source: Any facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which generates or attracts mobile source activity that results in emissions of any pollutant (or precursor). Examples of indirect sources include employment sites, shopping centers, housing developments, airports, commercial and industrial development, and parking lots and garages.

Maintenance Plan: In general, a plan that details the actions necessary to maintain air quality standards. In particular, the federal Clean Air Act requires maintenance plans for areas that have been redesignated as attainment areas.

Mobile Sources: Moving sources of air pollution such as automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, off-road vehicles, boats and airplanes.

NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards): Standards set by the federal U.S. EPA for the maximum levels of air pollutants which can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare.

Nonattainment Area: A geographic area identified by the U.S. EPA and/or CARB as not meeting either NAAQS or CAAQS standards for a given pollutant.

PM (Particulate Matter): Solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols.

PM-10 (Particulate Matter less than 10 microns): A major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols. The size of the particles (10 microns or smaller, about 0.0004 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs in the lungs where they may be deposited, resulting in adverse health effects. PM-10 also causes visibility reduction and is a criteria air pollutant.

PM-2.5 (Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns): A major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles, generally soot and aerosols. The size of the particles (2.5 microns or smaller, about 0.0001 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the air sacs deep in the lungs where they may cause adverse health effects, as noted in several recent studies. PM2.5 also causes visibility reduction,

SIP (State Implementation Plan): A document prepared by each state describing existing air quality conditions and measures which will be taken to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards (see AQMP).

Smoke: A form of air pollution consisting primarily of particulate matter (i.e., particles). Other components of smoke include gaseous air pollutants such as hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide. Sources of smoke may include fossil fuel combustion, agricultural burning, and other combustion processes.

Stationary Sources: Non-mobile sources such as power plants, refineries, and manufacturing facilities which emit air pollutants; can include area sources depending on context.

U.S. EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency): The federal agency charged with setting policy and guidelines, and carrying out legal mandates for the protection of national interests in environmental resources.

VMT: Total vehicle miles traveled by all or a subset of mobile sources.

Visibility: The distance that atmospheric conditions allow a person to see at a given time and location. Visibility reduction from air pollution is often due to the presence of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, as well as particulate matter.