

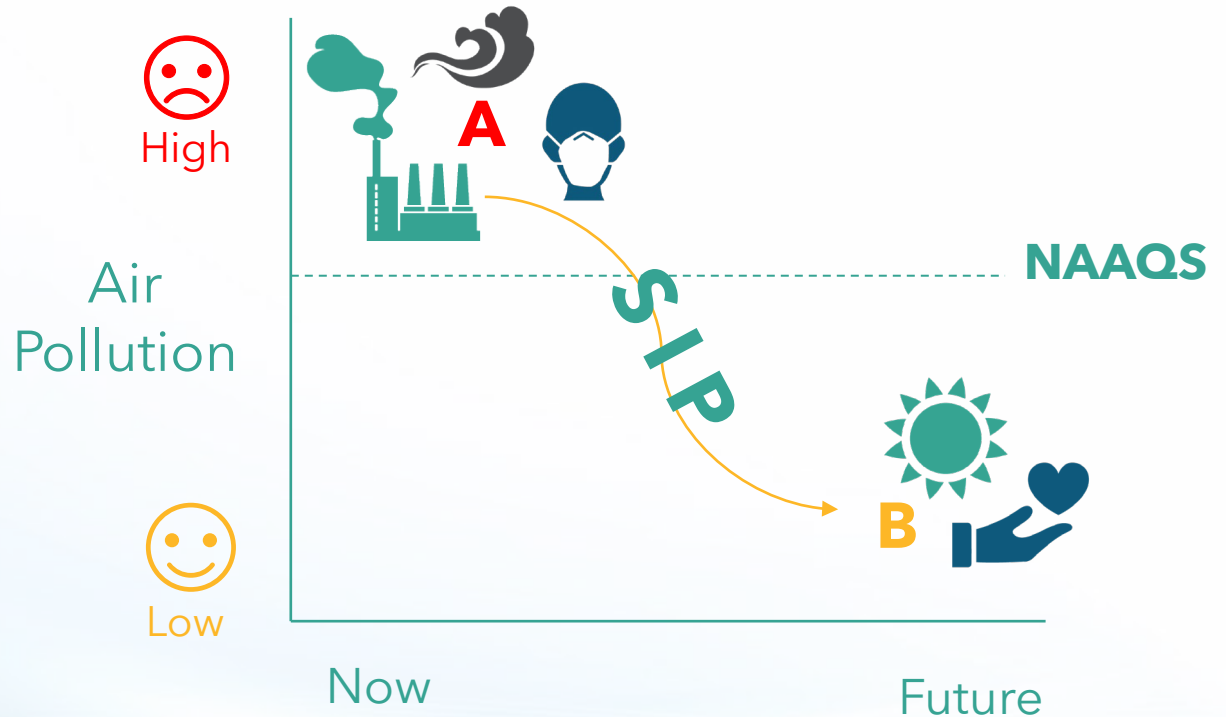


California Smog Check Contingency Measure for the State Implementation Plan

BAR Advisory Group Meeting
January 29, 2026

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

- The federal Clean Air Act requires U.S. EPA to set national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants, including ozone and particulate matter
- Areas not meeting a NAAQS must develop attainment plans to demonstrate how they will attain and meet other SIP requirements
- Rules and other programs needed to meet requirements must also be submitted/approved into the SIP
- Any submittal approved by U.S. EPA into the SIP is enforceable in federal courts, including through lawsuits by citizens



SIP Contingency Measures

SIP measures held in reserve to be triggered if an area fails to attain a NAAQS or meet a milestone requirement

- Required by the Clean Air Act
- Already adopted and can take effect without further action
- Begin implementation within 30 days of the effective date
- Reduce emissions within 1-2 years of being triggered



CARB Opportunities for Contingency Measures are Limited

Staff evaluated CARB programs for contingency measures opportunities



California's aggressive mobile source control programs driving towards zero-emissions limit opportunities



Primarily federally regulated sources (planes, trains, ocean-going vessels) are more than half of statewide mobile source NOx emissions



California must implement measures to support expeditious attainment of federal air quality standards rather than hold them in reserve

California Smog Check Program

- Smog Check inspections required every two years
- Vehicles subject to Smog Check
 - 1976 and newer gas-powered vehicles
 - 1998 and newer diesel-powered vehicles 14,000 or less GVW
- 8 model-year-old and newer vehicles are currently exempt under Health and Safety Code section 44011(a)(4)(A) and (B) unless CARB finds removing the exemption is needed for the SIP
 - AB1274 amended the H&SC to include this provision in 2017
- Exempted vehicles must pay an annual smog abatement fee

Smog Check Fees

- 7-8 model year old exempted vehicles must pay a Smog Abatement Fee of \$25
 - \$21 goes to Air Pollution Control Fund for Carl Moyer Program
 - \$4 to BAR for program administration
- Smog Check Inspection costs
 - Smog Check Certification fee - \$8.25
 - Smog inspection - \$68 on average
 - Average vehicle repairs - \$770



Smog Check Contingency Measure

Smog Check inspection exemptions would change if triggered in an applicable nonattainment area

First trigger

8 model years old and newer to
7 model years old and newer

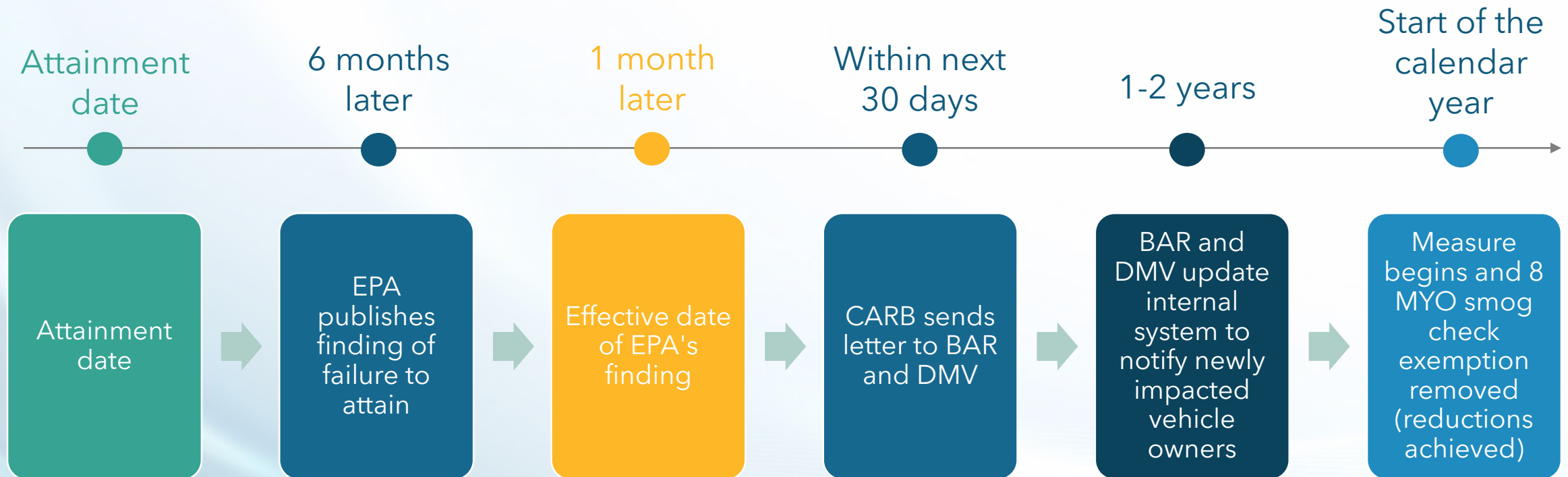
< 8 MYO → < 7 MYO

Second trigger

7 model year old and newer to
6 model year old and newer

< 7 MYO → < 6 MYO

Measure Implementation Timeline



Areas in which the Smog Check Contingency Measure Applies

- Changes to the Smog Check Program are done on an area-by-area basis

Area	Ozone			PM2.5		
	70 ppb	75 ppb	80 ppb	12 µg/m³	15 µg/m³	35 µg/m³
Coachella Valley	✓	✓				
Eastern Kern County	✓	✓				
Mariposa County	✓					
Sacramento Metro Area	✓	✓				
San Diego County	✓	✓				
San Joaquin Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Coast Air Basin	✓	✓		✓		
Ventura County	✓					
Western Mojave Desert	✓	✓				
Western Nevada	✓					



Emissions Benefits

- Additional Smog Check inspections will identify new emissions control equipment failures and ensure they are repaired
- As required for SIP contingency, these reductions are beyond those accounted for under the current program
- Estimated emissions reductions can be found in staff report

Smog Check Contingency Measure Approved by U.S. EPA

- U.S. EPA approved California's Smog Check program in 2010
- CARB submitted H&SC section 44011(a)(4)(A) and (B) to U.S. EPA for incorporation into the California SIP
- The Smog Check Contingency Measure was approved by U.S. EPA into the SIP on July 9, 2024



Current Triggering Event

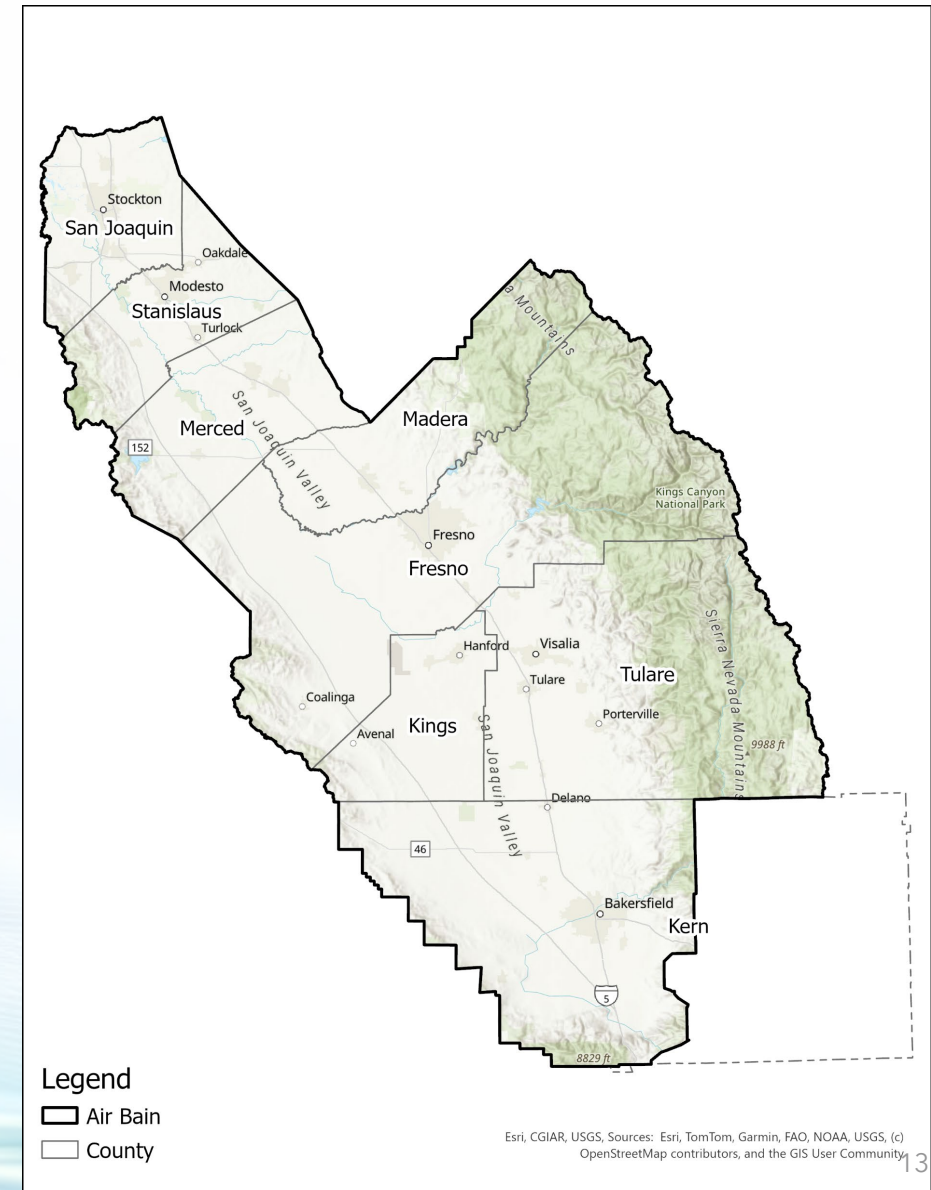
San Joaquin Valley,
80 ppb 8-hour ozone

- Finding of Failure to Attain – final action, effective 10/27/25
- Smog Check program changes will begin implementation in 2027

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San Diego County	✓	✓				
San Joaquin Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Coast Air Basin	✓	✓		✓		
Ventura County	✓					
Western Mojave Desert	✓	✓				
Western Nevada	✓					12

San Joaquin Valley

- San Joaquin Valley includes several counties:
 - San Joaquin
 - Stanislaus
 - Merced
 - Madera
 - Fresno
 - Kings
 - Tulare
 - Western Portion of Kern
- CARB sent a letter to DMV and BAR, with an enclosed list of ZIP codes affected by the change



Continuing CARB Support

- CARB staff are working with BAR and DMV on FAQs and informational documents for the public, to be included on websites and/or with registration renewal notices for affected vehicles
- CARB staff will inform BAR and DMV of areas likely to trigger the measure as early as possible in order to allow maximum time for programming and notification to industry and the public
- CARB staff will continue to work with BAR and DMV to assist with the triggering of the Smog Check Contingency Measure

Thank you