

NCCAB AREA DESIGNATIONS AND ATTAINMENT STATUS – JANUARY 2009

Designations in relation to the State standards are made by the ARB while designations in relation to the National standards are made by EPA. State designations are reviewed annually while the National designations are reviewed when either the standards change, or when an area requests that they be re-designated due to changes in the area’s air quality. Designations are made by air basin and in some cases, designations are made at the county level.

Designations are made by pollutant according to the following categories:

Attainment – Air quality in the area meets the standard.

Nonattainment Transitional – Air quality is approaching the standard (State only).

Nonattainment – Air quality in the area fails to the applicable standard.

Unclassified – Insufficient data to designate area, or designations have yet to be made.

Nonattainment designations are of most concern because they indicate that unhealthy levels of the pollutant exist in the area, which typically triggers a need to develop a plan to achieve the applicable standard.

Current State and National designations are shown below:

ATTAINMENT STATUS FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL COAST AIR BASIN – JANUARY 2009

Pollutant	State Standards	National Standards
Ozone (O ₃)	Nonattainment ¹⁾	Attainment ²⁾
Inhalable Particulates (PM ₁₀)	Nonattainment	Attainment
Fine Particulates (PM _{2.5})	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment ³⁾
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Monterey Co. – Attainment San Benito Co. – Unclassified Santa Cruz Co. - Unclassified	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Attainment	Attainment
Lead	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment ⁴⁾

Notes:

- 1) Effective July 26, 2007, the ARB designated the NCCAB a nonattainment area for the State ozone standard, which was revised in 2006 to include an 8-hour standard of 0.070 ppm.
- 2) On March 12, 2008, EPA adopted a new 8-hour ozone standard of 0.075 ppm, while temporarily retaining the existing 8-hour standard of 0.08 ppm. EPA is expected to issue new designations by March 2010.
- 3) In 2006, the Federal 24-hour standard for PM_{2.5} was revised from 65 to 35 µg/m³. Although final designations have yet to be made, it is expected that the NCCAB will remain designated unclassified/attainment.
- 4) On October 15, 2008 EPA substantially strengthened the national ambient air quality standard for lead by lowering the level of the primary standard from 1.5 µg/m³ to 0.15 µg/m³. Initial recommendations for designations are to be made by October 2009 with final designations by January 2012.
- 5) Nonattainment pollutants are highlighted in **Bold**.

Additional information and State and National designations and ambient air quality standards can be obtained at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/desig.htm>