

News Release

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For Immediate Release

TO: Local News, and Health sections

Eastern Kern Attains 1997 Ozone Standard

On August 30, 2012 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced their finding that the Eastern Kern Nonattainment Area met the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). In 2004 the Indian Wells Valley was classified as attainment for the 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. With this new finding the entire Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District is now in attainment for the 1997 standard. EPA's finding states the Eastern Kern Nonattainment Area attained the ozone NAAQS by the required date of June 15, 2010, and has continued to meet the standard for the last three years. The Eastern Kern Nonattainment Area has experienced significantly lower 8-hour ozone levels since it was found nonattainment for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS in 2004. The design value¹ for the Eastern Kern Nonattainment Area has gone from 0.098 parts per million (ppm) in 2003 to 0.080 ppm in 2011. While this good news shows a significant reduction in ozone levels in the District the area still has a design value higher than the newer 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS of 0.075 ppm. Attainment of the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS is expected to take several more years².

More information from EPA can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>, including a fact sheet and their news release.

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¹The three year average of the fourth highest 8-hour ozone value for the target year and the two preceding years is the design value for that year. To determine attainment that design value is compared to the Ozone NAAQS.

² The Indian Wells Valley portion of Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District was found attainment/unclassified for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS by EPA in 2011.