

should be mailed to Raymond Werner, Chief, Air Programs Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 Office, 290 Broadway, 25th Floor, New York, New York 10007–1866. Electronic comments could be sent either to [Werner.Raymond@epa.gov](mailto:Werner.Raymond@epa.gov) or to <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is an alternative method for submitting electronic comments to EPA. Go directly to <http://www.regulations.gov>, then select “Environmental Protection Agency” at the top of the page and use the “go” button. Please follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

Copies of the State submittal are available at the following addresses for inspection during normal business hours:

Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 2 Office, Air Programs Branch,  
290 Broadway, 25th Floor, New York,  
New York 10007–1866.

Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 2, Caribbean Environmental  
Protection Division, Centro Europa  
Building, Suite 417, 1492 Ponce De  
Leon Avenue, Stop 22, San Juan,  
Puerto Rico 00907–4127.

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality  
Board, National Plaza Building, 431  
Ponce De Leon Avenue, Hato Rey,  
Puerto Rico.

Environmental Protection Agency, Air  
and Radiation Docket and Information  
Center, Air Docket (6102), 401 M  
Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kirk  
J. Wieber, Air Programs Branch,  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 2 Office, 290 Broadway, 25th  
Floor, New York, New York 10007–  
1866, (212) 637–3381 or  
[Wieber.Kirk@epa.gov](mailto:Wieber.Kirk@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For  
additional information see the direct  
final rule which is located in the Rules  
section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**Jane M. Kenny,**

*Regional Administrator, Region 2.*

[FR Doc. 03–27483 Filed 10–30–03; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 81

[CA 106–FOA; FRL–7580–7]

#### Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Determination of Attainment of the 1- Hour Ozone Standard for the San Francisco Bay Area, California, and Determination Regarding Applicability of Certain Clean Air Act Requirements

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is proposing to  
determine that the San Francisco Bay  
Area has attained the 1-hour ozone air  
quality standard by the deadline  
required by the Clean Air Act. Based on  
this proposal, we also propose to  
determine that the CAA’s requirements  
for reasonable further progress,  
attainment demonstration, and  
contingency provisions are not  
applicable to the area for so long as the  
Bay Area continues to attain the 1-hour  
ozone standard.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal must  
be received by December 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address your  
comments to:

Ginger Vagenas, Air Planning Office  
(AIR–2), Air Division, U.S. EPA, Region  
9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco,  
CA 94105–3901 or e-mail to  
[vagenas.ginger@epa.gov](mailto:vagenas.ginger@epa.gov), or submit  
comments at [http://](http://www.regulations.gov)  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Copies of the docket for this  
rulemaking are available for public  
inspection during normal business  
hours at EPA’s Region 9 office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Ginger Vagenas, U.S. EPA Region 9,  
at (415) 972–3964, or  
[vagenas.ginger@epa.gov](mailto:vagenas.ginger@epa.gov)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document, “we,” “us”  
and “our” refer to EPA.

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#### I. Attainment Finding

##### A. Bay Area’s Ozone Designations and State Implementation Plans

When the Clean Air Act (CAA)  
Amendments were enacted in 1990,  
each area of the country that was  
designated nonattainment for the 1-hour  
ozone National Ambient Air Quality  
Standard (NAAQS), including the San  
Francisco Bay Area (“Bay Area”), was  
classified by operation of law as  
marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or  
extreme depending on the severity of  
the area’s air quality problem.<sup>1</sup> CAA  
sections 107(d)(1)(C) and 181(a). The  
Bay Area was classified as moderate.  
See 56 FR 56694 (November 6, 1991).

EPA redesignated the Bay Area to  
attainment in 1995, based on then  
current air quality data (60 FR 27029,  
May 22, 1995), and subsequently  
redesignated the area back to  
nonattainment without classification on  
July 10, 1998 (63 FR 37258), following  
renewed violations of the 1-hour ozone  
standard. Upon the Bay Area’s  
redesignation to nonattainment, we  
required the State to submit a state  
implementation plan (SIP) addressing  
applicable CAA provisions, including a  
demonstration of attainment as

<sup>1</sup> The 1-hour ozone nonattainment area is the  
“San Francisco-Bay Area,” which comprises  
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San  
Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties,  
and portions of Solano and Sonoma Counties. See  
40 CFR 81.305 ([http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfrhtml\\_00/Title\\_40/40cfr81\\_00.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfrhtml_00/Title_40/40cfr81_00.html)).

EPA’s 1-hour ozone standard of 0.12 ppm was  
promulgated in 1979 (44 FR 8202, February 8,  
1979). On July 18, 1997, we promulgated a revised  
ozone standard of 0.08 ppm, measured over an 8-  
hour period. In general, the 8-hour standard is more  
protective of public health and more stringent than  
the 1-hour standard. This proposed finding  
addresses only the 1-hour standard. Areas will be  
designated attainment or nonattainment for the 8-  
hour standard in 2004.

Ground-level ozone can irritate the respiratory  
system, causing coughing, throat irritation, and  
uncomfortable sensations in the chest. Ozone can  
also reduce lung function and make it more difficult  
to breathe deeply, thereby limiting a person’s  
normal activity. Finally, ozone can aggravate  
asthma and can inflame and damage the lining of  
the lungs, leading to permanent changes in lung  
function. More details on ozone’s health effects and  
the ozone NAAQS can be found at the following  
Web site: [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s\\_o3\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s_o3_index.html).