

provided comments outside the scope of this rulemaking.²² These additional suggestions, many of which the Office considered and responded to in the 2024 rulemaking,²³ do not provide any reason to delay clarifying the definition of “news websites” as proposed.²⁴

The Office will adopt the final rule effective immediately.²⁵ Because this rulemaking seeks to remove a restriction and expand eligibility for the GRNW registration option, we find good cause to do so.²⁶

List of Subjects in 37 CFR Part 202

Copyright, Copyright claims, preregistration and registration.

Final Regulations

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Copyright Office amends 37 CFR part 202 as follows:

PART 202—PREREGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION OF CLAIMS TO COPYRIGHT

■ 1. The authority citation for part 202 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 17 U.S.C. 408(f), 702.

■ 2. Amend § 202.4 by revising paragraph (m)(1)(i) to read as follows:

§ 202.4 Group registration.

* * * * *

(m) * * *

(1) *Definitions.* For the purposes of paragraph (m) of this section:

(i) *News website* means a website that is primarily designed to be a source of written information on current events, either local, national, or international in scope.

* * * * *

Dated: August 10, 2026.

Shira Perlmutter,

Register of Copyrights and Director of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Approved by:

Robert Newlen,

Acting Librarian of Congress.

[FR Doc. 2026–16465 Filed 8–12–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1410–30–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R09–OAR–2025–3127; FRL–13098–02–R9]

Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; 1997 Ozone Standards; California; Coachella Valley

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to determine that the Riverside County (Coachella Valley), CA 1997 ozone “Extreme” nonattainment area attained the revoked 1997 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) by its June 15, 2025 attainment date. This determination is based on quality-assured and certified ambient air quality monitoring data from 2022 through 2024.

DATES: This rule is effective September 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA–R09–OAR–2025–3127 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. All documents in the docket are listed on the <https://www.regulations.gov> website. Some information is not publicly available, e.g., Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other

information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through <https://www.regulations.gov>, or please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for additional availability information. If you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Kelly, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105, telephone number: (415) 972–3856, email address: kelly.thomas@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the EPA.

Table of Contents

- I. Proposed Action
- II. Public Comments and EPA Responses
- III. EPA Action
- IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

I. Proposed Action

On January 15, 2026, the EPA proposed to determine that the Coachella Valley attained the revoked 1997 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) of 0.08 parts per million (ppm) by its June 15, 2025 Extreme area attainment date.¹ The EPA proposed these findings to fulfill our statutory obligation under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 181(b)(2) to determine whether an area has attained the relevant standards by the applicable attainment date. Previously, the EPA granted the nonattainment area a 1-year extension of the attainment date from June 15, 2024, to June 15, 2025.²

TABLE 1—1997 OZONE NAAQS EXTREME AREA ACTION SUMMARY

1997 NAAQS nonattainment area	2022–2024 design value (ppm)	1997 NAAQS attained by the extreme attainment date?
Coachella Valley	0.084	Attained.

website would protect those works if they contain the same content”); *id.* at 58992 (explaining that NWU’s proposal to remove the “news” requirement “would substantially change its scope”).

²⁴ The Office continues to consider how to make the statutory benefits of registering works of authorship more accessible, and we recognize the ongoing stakeholder interest in additional group registration options. We have sought public input on such options, as we continue development of the new Enterprise Copyright System (ECS) which will enhance access to registration and other services.

²⁵ See 91 FR 14724 (Mar. 26, 2026); U.S. Copyright Office, Proposed Schedule of Fees to Go Into Effect in Fall 2026 at 28–29, 42 (July 14, 2026), <https://www.copyright.gov/rulemaking/feestudy2026/proposed-fee-schedule.pdf>.

²⁶ Two commenters requested that the final rule take effect immediately. Copyright All. Comments at 2 (“It is our hope that this proposed rule can go into effect as soon as possible so that news publishers that have been uncertain of whether their website content is eligible for this group registration . . . imminently register their works

using this option.”); NMA Comments at 5 (“[T]he proposed update would best promote administrative efficiency, and any delay would be unnecessary or contrary to the public interest.”).

²⁷ 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1), (3).

²⁸ 91 FR 1732 (Jan. 15, 2026).

²⁹ 90 FR 42844 (Sept. 5, 2025). This action relied upon excluded wildfire-driven exceedances of the 1997 ozone NAAQS at the Palms Springs—Fire Station monitoring site on July 14–15, 2023, under the Exceptional Events Rule.

II. Public Comments and EPA Responses

The EPA's proposed action provided a 30-day public comment period. During this period, we received comments from the Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians (CBCI). In their comment letter, the CBCI requested government-to-government consultation with the EPA on our proposed action prior to taking final action.

The EPA held a pre-consultation meeting with the CBCI after the close of the comment period and discussed the potential impacts of the proposed action.³ Following this meeting, the CBCI notified the EPA they were no longer seeking formal consultation with the EPA.⁴

Comment 1: The CBCI expressed concern that the EPA's determination would allow non-Tribal areas to increase allowable emissions thresholds for stationary sources. The CBCI were specifically concerned about less stringent permitting requirements for non-Tribal land due to the higher classification of the Tribal land. The CBCI also questioned the EPA's evaluation of this indirect impact on the Tribes of the Coachella Valley and asked the EPA to account for this regulatory asymmetry.

Response to Comment 1: The EPA's determination of attainment by the attainment date does not change the nonattainment classification for any Tribal or non-Tribal areas of the Coachella Valley for the 1997 ozone NAAQS.

If the EPA were to finalize approval of a future maintenance plan and redesignation to attainment for the Coachella Valley for the 1997 ozone NAAQS, the area would be redesignated from nonattainment to attainment, which would change the area's major source thresholds for permitting for the 1997 ozone standard. The EPA has not received a redesignation request and maintenance plan for the Coachella Valley 1997 ozone nonattainment area and is not taking such redesignation action at this time. We further note that any future redesignation to attainment for the 1997 ozone NAAQS would have little practical consequence on permitting thresholds in the Coachella Valley because the Coachella Valley would remain Extreme for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Thus, applicable higher

permitting thresholds would continue to apply.

As we stated in our proposal, the attainment finding would relieve the area's CAA section 182(c)(9) and 172(c)(9) requirements for contingency measures for the 1997 ozone NAAQS, which requires contingent emission control measures in the event a nonattainment area fails to attain the NAAQS by an applicable attainment date. In addition, the area is not required to implement CAA section 185, which calls for the collection of penalty fees in nonattainment areas that fail to attain a specific ozone NAAQS by the applicable attainment date.

Comment 2: The CBCI noted that they operate an air monitor along with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and the CBCI adheres to Federal Reference Methods and Federal Equivalent Methods in operation of the ozone monitor. They asserted that the EPA should consider formally incorporating or validating Tribally-affiliated monitoring data to improve representativeness and confidence in future determinations.

Response to Comment 2: While 40 CFR part 58, appendix D establishes multiple monitoring objectives, one of these objectives is for the establishment of required ambient air quality monitoring stations that are used to determine compliance with the NAAQS. For this action, the EPA relies only on complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient monitoring data from approved regulatory State/Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) within the boundaries of Coachella Valley, in accordance with 40 CFR part 58 (see table 1 of this document). The CBCI monitor referenced by the Tribe is not an approved regulatory SLAMS site; therefore, data from the Tribe's monitor were not used for this attainment determination. Though not applicable for comparison to the NAAQS, the CBCI monitor measured ozone concentrations below the 1997 ozone NAAQS from 2022–2024.⁵ Although the EPA only considers data from regulatory monitors for regulatory purposes, we acknowledge and appreciate the value of the non-regulatory monitors in providing timely information for *AirNow.gov* and public information purposes.

Comment 3: The CBCI asserted that the proposed rule relied on deficient monitors with a constrained timeframe, that the Indio-Armistad High School monitor did not collect data from 2022

or 2023, and that two more years of monitoring are required to create a valid three-year design value.

Response to Comment 3: Attainment determinations are based on complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient ozone data collected under 40 CFR part 58. For ozone, a design value is determined from the 3-year average (*i.e.*, 2022–2024) of the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentrations, calculated in accordance with 40 CFR part 50, appendix H, and using quality-assured and certified data that meet the requirements of that appendix.

Within the bounds of the Coachella Valley there are two active ozone SLAMS monitors, Indio-Amistad (Air Quality System (AQS) ID: 06–065–2007) and Palm Springs (AQS ID: 06–065–5001). In this case, the Indio-Amistad monitoring site did not produce a valid design value for the 2024 design value period (data years 2022–2024) because the monitor was relocated in 2022–2023 and did not collect valid data during the relocation. However, the Palm Springs monitor, historically the highest concentration site in the nonattainment area, had complete, quality-assured, and certified data and an attaining design value. As we stated in our proposal, the Indio-Amistad monitor has historically recorded lower concentrations than Palm Springs,⁶ thus a valid attaining design value at the Palm Springs monitor is sufficient to support this attainment determination despite the absence of a valid design value at Indio-Amistad.

Comment 4: The CBCI suggested that the South Coast Air Quality Management District could not provide regulatory data to the EPA because the District is not on the list of regulators that correlate emissions data with applicable emissions limitations per 40 CFR 52.224.

Response to Comment 4: The EPA does not agree that 40 CFR 52.224 precludes our reliance on emissions data from the South Coast Air Quality Management District for this action. The EPA promulgated 40 CFR 52.224 in response to certain state implementation plans (SIPs)⁷ that contained confidentiality clauses that may have caused emission data to be withheld from the public, in violation of CAA 110(a)(2)(F)(iii).⁸ All of California,

⁶ 91 FR 1732, 1736.

⁷ SIPs are collections of regulations and documents used by a state, Tribe, or local air district to implement, maintain, and enforce the NAAQS and fulfill other CAA requirements.

⁸ See 40 FR 55326 (Nov. 28, 1975). CAA 110(a)(2)(F)(iii) contains two conditions: (1) that periodic reports on the nature and amounts of emissions and emissions-related data be correlated

³ See a summary of the discussion in the docket for this action (Docket No. EPA–R09–OAR–2025–3127–0050).

⁴ Email dated April 15, 2026, from Daniel Lopez-Tirado (CBCI) to Kathryn Harper (EPA), Subject “Re: Pre-Consultation Meeting.”

⁵ Ambient ozone concentrations at the CBCI monitor were reported January 2022 to November 2023.

including the South Coast Air Quality Management District, have since addressed the requirements of CAA 110(a)(2)(F)(iii) for many NAAQS, and the EPA has approved the California SIP as addressing both requirements of CAA 110(a)(2)(F)(iii) for the 1997 ozone NAAQS.⁹

III. EPA Action

For the reasons discussed in the proposed rule and this document, we are finalizing our determination that the Coachella Valley has attained the revoked 1997 ozone NAAQS by its June 15, 2025 attainment date, based on quality-assured and certified ambient air quality monitoring data from 2022 through 2024.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

This action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993);

- Is not an Executive Order 14192 (90 FR 9065, February 6, 2025) regulatory action because this action is not significant under Executive Order 12866;

- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);

- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);

- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4);

- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);

- Is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it approves a state program;

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001); and

- Is not subject to requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA.

This action is subject to the Congressional Review Act (CRA), and the EPA will submit a rule report to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by October 13, 2026. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action for the purposes of judicial review, nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements (see section 307(b)(2)).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen oxides, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: July 31, 2026.

Michael Martucci,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the EPA amends 40 CFR part 52 as follows:

PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Subpart F—California

■ 2. Section 52.282 is amended by adding paragraph (r) to read as follows:

§ 52.282 Control strategy and regulations: Ozone.

* * * * *

(r) *Determinations of attainment by the attainment date.* Effective September 14, 2026. The EPA has determined that the Riverside County (Coachella Valley) 1997 ozone Extreme nonattainment area has attained the 1997 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) by the applicable attainment date of June 15, 2025, based upon complete, quality-assured and certified data for the calendar years 2022–2024.

[FR Doc. 2026–16511 Filed 8–12–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R07–OAR–2026–0463; FRL–13204–02–R7]

Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Clean Data Determination for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Missouri Portion of the St. Louis Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is determining under the Clean Air Act (CAA) that the Missouri portion of the St. Louis, MO–IL bi-state nonattainment area has achieved clean data for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS or standard). This determination of clean data is based upon complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2023–2025 design value period showing that the Missouri portion of the area achieved attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The 2023–2025 design value relies upon EPA concurrence on a portion of the exceptional events request as submitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) on November 3, 2025, and concurred on by the EPA on January 27, 2026. The EPA is also approving Missouri’s November 3, 2025, clean data determination request. This final clean data determination suspends the obligations of the State of Missouri to submit certain nonattainment area planning requirements for as long as the Missouri portion of the St. Louis area continues to attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS. In a separate action, the EPA is finalizing a similar determination for the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area.

DATES: This final rule is effective on September 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA–R07–OAR–2026–0463. All documents in the docket are listed on the <https://www.regulations.gov> website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, *i.e.*, Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through <https://www.regulations.gov> or please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER**

with the relevant emission limitations, and (2) that these reports be made available at reasonable times for public inspection.

⁹ See 81 FR 18766 (Apr. 1, 2016). See also 79 FR 63350 (Oct. 23, 2014).