

THE PROBLEM :



The EPA is Mandating Air Quality Standards that are Impossible to Achieve.



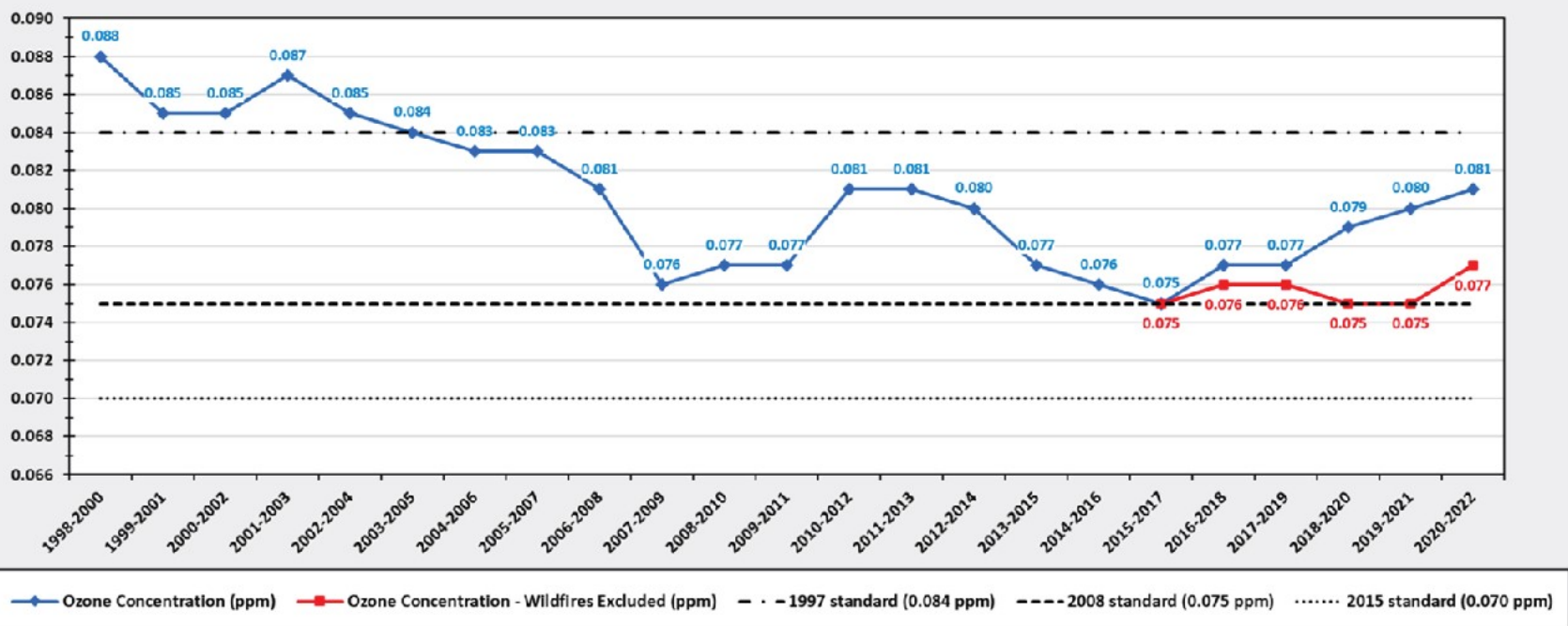
In 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted new air quality standards for ozone, from 75ppb to 70ppb. Most of the ozone in Maricopa County is the result of naturally occurring events or from emissions produced outside of the country (primarily from China). For example, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the precursor to ozone, are generally created through reactions to hot climates, wildfires, biomass breakdown, etc. As these high ozone levels occur beyond the scope and control of the citizens of Arizona, it is widely acknowledged that implementing dramatic policies will not result in compliance with the 2015 standards.

As shown by the chart below, for the past 30 years Arizona has not achieved ozone levels below 75ppb, even subtracting wildfires. In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, ozone levels increased despite the fact that vehicular travel and business activity was substantially reduced.

Even the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the entity responsible for crafting an air quality plan for the region, has issued public statements acknowledging that the removal of all four million internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles in the metropolitan Phoenix area would not bring Maricopa County into compliance with the ozone standards.

On September 16, 2022, the EPA reclassified Maricopa County from minimal nonattainment to a moderate nonattainment area for ozone limits under the Clean Air Act. This triggers an automatic "sanctions clock" that requires compliance to avoid draconian punishments such as shutting down permit authorizations for emitting businesses such as manufacturers in the region as well as the withholding of federal highway funding.

Highest 3-Year Average of the 4th Highest 8-Hour Ozone Concentration in the Maricopa Nonattainment Area - Design Value



DANGER:

EPA's Control Measures Include Radical CA-Style "Air Quality" Mandates

In early March, MAG released a proposed list of control measures to reduce ozone in Maricopa County in anticipation of the next "check-in" with the EPA in June 2023. Of the options provided, MAG is estimating that residents and businesses in Maricopa County need to cut ozone emissions by 50% in one year to comply.

In short, any combination of MAG's proposed control measures to meet the EPA's impossible standards would cost billions of dollars, destroy our quality of life and devastate Arizona's economy.

Many of the recommendations have been imported from California and include:

- ✘ Banning gas-powered vehicles by 2035,**
- ✘ Phasing out residential and commercial gas appliances,**
- ✘ Limiting the use of gas-powered lawn equipment,**
- ✘ Prohibiting the use of recreational vehicles (boats, quads, etc) on high ozone days.**

Additionally, under current state statute, the Arizona Governor has broad emergency power authority to declare an "air quality state of emergency" (A.R.S 49-465) and "may prohibit, restrict or condition: motor vehicle traffic; the operation of retail, commercial, manufacturing, governmental, industrial, or similar activity; operation of incinerators, the burning or other consumption of fuels; the burning of any materials whatsoever; and any and all other activity which contributes or may contribute to the emergency." This would be a manufactured emergency, as Arizona has grown and thrived for decades under the current air quality conditions.

SOLUTION:

Oppose Any Control Measures that Sacrifice Our Economy and Our Freedoms!



The Biden Administration is attempting to conscript Arizona into adopting their "Green New Deal" policies under threat of sanction, knowing full well their standards are impossible to meet. Accepting any of these harmful policies should be out of the question. If Arizona agrees to adopt these MAG recommendations, they will become a part of our "State Implementation Plan" which holds the weight of federal law and is a one-way-ratchet on regulation.

Arizona lawmakers must stand up to the Biden Administration and urge Congress to stop the EPA from imposing coercive and likely unconstitutional penalties on Arizona to comply with an ozone standard that is impossible to attain through any of the control measures being considered.

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GET INVOLVED!