



El Paso Air Quality Overview: Ozone and Particulate Matter

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El Paso Air Quality Preview

- Current air quality status
- 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)
- 1987 coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) NAAQS

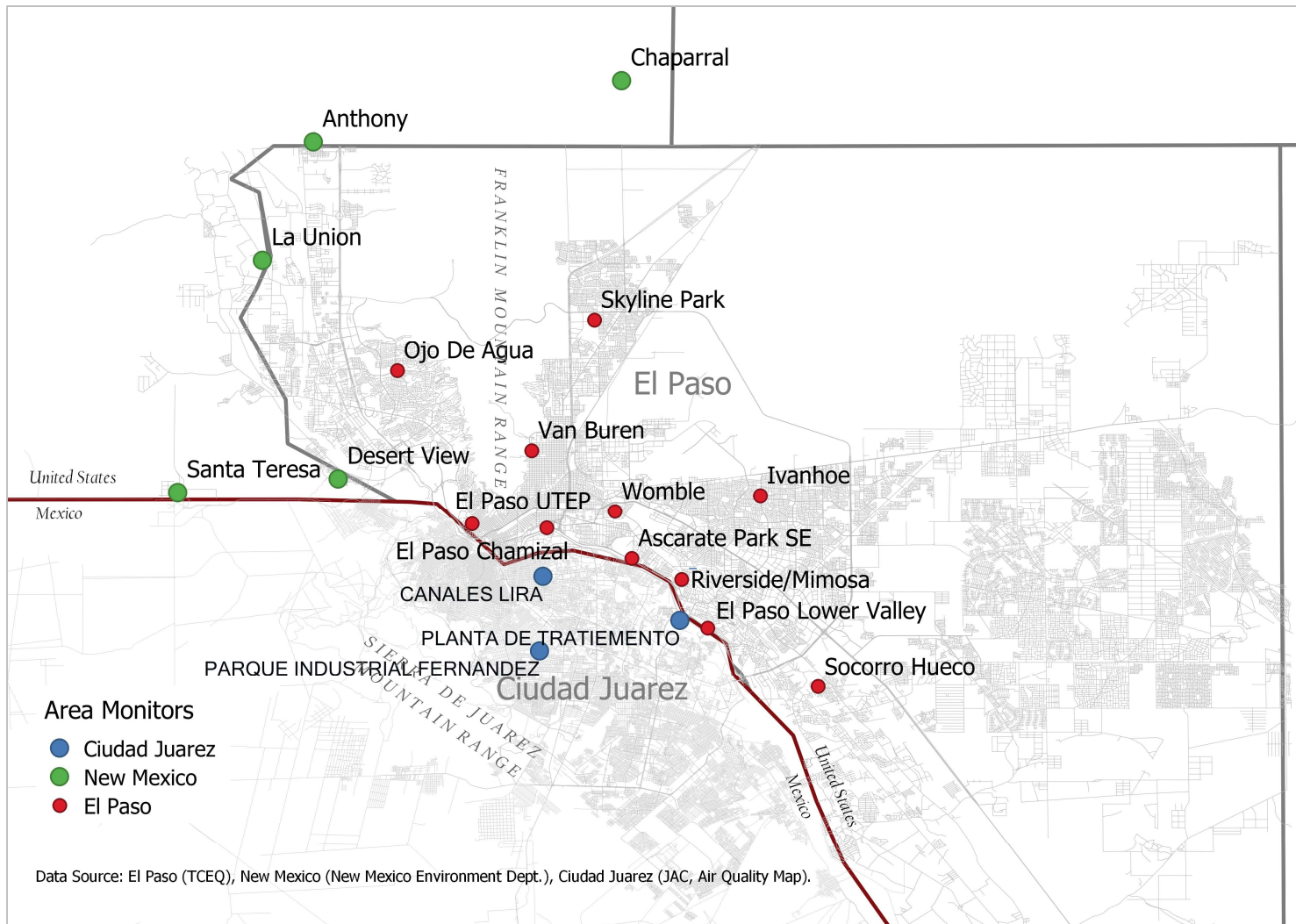


Current Air Quality Status

- Ozone
 - El Paso County is designated attainment for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS.
 - El Paso County is designated attainment/unclassifiable for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS.
- Particulate Matter (PM)
 - City of El Paso is designated nonattainment, with a moderate classification, for the 1987 PM₁₀ standard.
 - EPA designated all areas of Texas unclassifiable/attainment for PM_{2.5}.

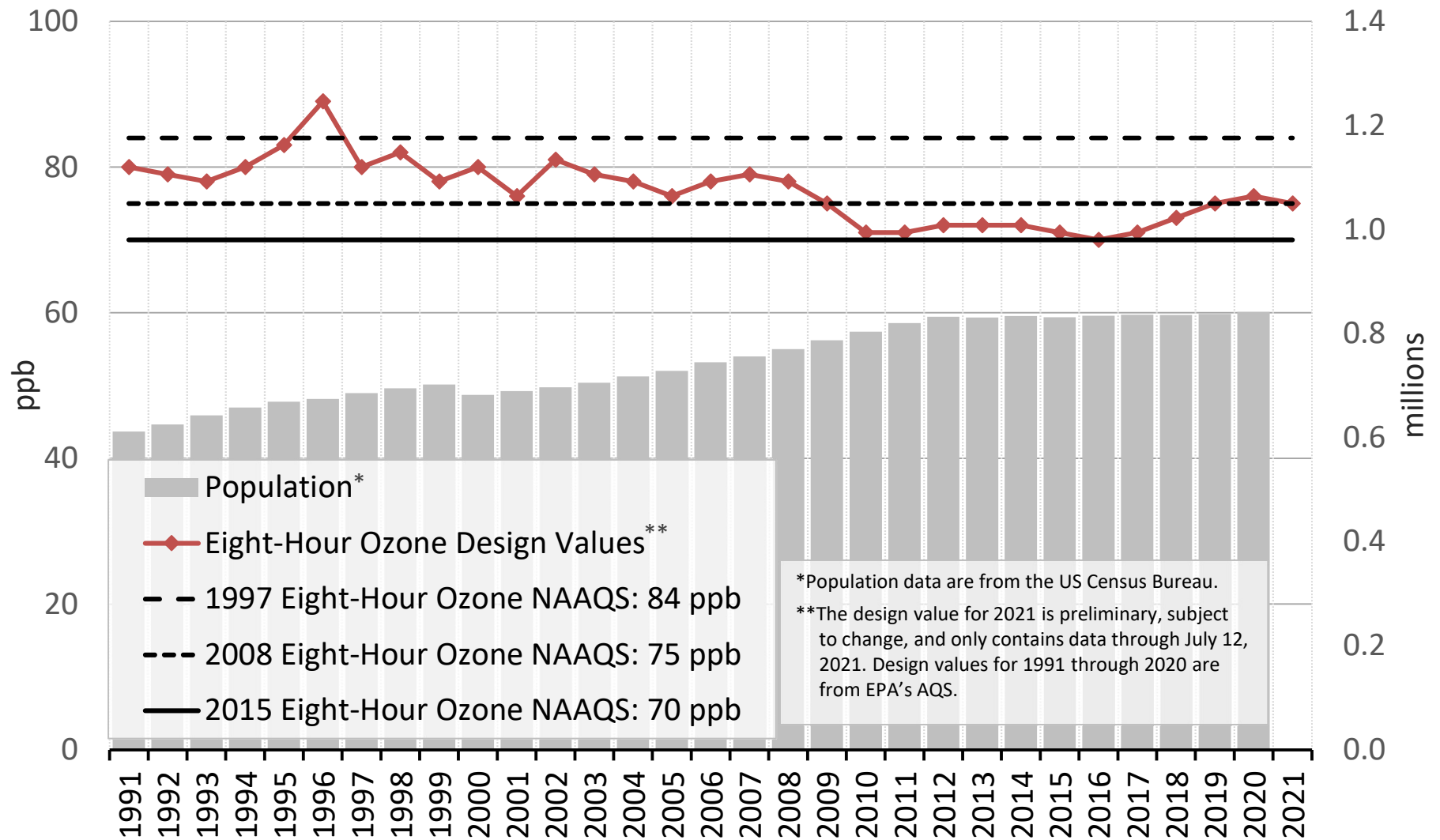


El Paso County, Ciudad Juarez and New Mexico Air Monitor Locations





Eight-Hour Ozone Design Values and Population in El Paso County





2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Designation – El Paso County

- Standard: 70 ppb
- El Paso County was initially recommended as nonattainment.
 - Design value was 71 ppb based on 2013–2015 data.
- Recommendation was revised to attainment based on 2014–2016 data.
 - El Paso County monitored attainment considering exceptional event information.
- EPA designated El Paso County as attainment effective August 3, 2018.



El Paso 2015 Ozone Attainment Designation Challenge

- Clean Wisconsin v. EPA, No. 18-1203 and consolidated cases, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals challenged El Paso's attainment designation.
- Litigation was combined with challenges for other areas in D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.
- TCEQ and State of Texas intervened in support of EPA's designation for El Paso.
- Court granted voluntary remand on July 10, 2020 and ordered EPA to issue revised designation as expeditiously as practicable.



EPA Intended Nonattainment Designation

- EPA sent a 120-day letter on May 25, 2021 notifying Texas of EPA's intended nonattainment designation for El Paso County for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS.
- The notification addresses the July 10, 2020 decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Texas submitted additional information for EPA consideration on July 26, 2021.
- Designations will be finalized on September 22, 2021.



TCEQ Response to 120-day Letter

- El Paso County should be designated as attainment for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS based on 2014–2016 monitoring data.
- Analysis shows that El Paso County does not contribute to nonattainment in NM based on its:
 - Emissions data;
 - Population density and degree of urbanization;
 - Traffic and vehicle miles traveled (VMT);
 - Meteorology; and
 - Geography/topography.
- EPA’s proposal to designate El Paso County as nonattainment is inconsistent.



TCEQ Response to 120-day Letter

- If El Paso County is designated as nonattainment, then TCEQ disagrees:
 - That El Paso County should be combined with the existing Sunland Park nonattainment area in Doña Ana County, NM as one multi-state El Paso-Las Cruces ozone nonattainment area; and
 - With EPA’s intended nonattainment area boundary of the entirety of El Paso County.
- A nonattainment designation should not be tied to the existing implementation schedule for the Sunland Park ozone nonattainment area in Doña Ana County, NM.



International Transport

- FCAA, §179B
 - The state can submit a demonstration that an area would attain the NAAQS “but for” international emissions.
 - EPA approval of a §179B demonstration suspends planning requirements and prevents reclassification.
- New Mexico submitted a 179B demonstration for the Sunland Park 2015 eight-hour ozone nonattainment area to the EPA on June 3, 2021.



PM₁₀ NAAQS for the City of El Paso

- The City of El Paso was designated as moderate nonattainment for PM₁₀ in 1990.
 - EPA approved an FCAA, §179B demonstration that prevented reclassification to serious nonattainment in 1994.
- Based on 2017—2020 certified monitoring data, the City of El Paso is attaining the NAAQS.
- Air Quality Division staff are beginning work on a redesignation request and maintenance plan SIP revision for the City of El Paso.
 - Proposal is tentatively scheduled for January 2022 with adoption in July 2022.



For More Information

- Join the SIP/Air Quality update e-mail list:
www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/sipcontact.html
- El Paso air quality and SIP information:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/elp/>
- Air quality monitoring information:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/air-mon>



Thank you!

Questions?

Office of Air/Air Quality Division

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