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**For immediate release**

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## PAG Regional Council adopts 10-year air quality plan for carbon monoxide

Pima Association of Governments' Regional Council adopted an air quality plan for carbon monoxide at its June meeting to provide continued protection of public health for the residents of the Tucson region.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is emitted by the burning of fuel. In the Tucson region, motor vehicles are the major source of this pollutant.

The Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan has been submitted to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for approval and submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by July 10, 2008.

The federal Clean Air Act required renewal of this plan, originally approved by the EPA in 2000, to ensure maintenance of the carbon monoxide health standard through 2020. This plan revision incorporates minor updates to the original plan and includes recent data and analyses and was available for public review and comment.

While ambient carbon monoxide levels are no longer a health threat, ozone levels can reach unhealthful levels and are of concern. Several of the measures in this carbon monoxide plan assist in reducing ozone pollution, but additional measures may well be required in the future.

The EPA will conduct a completeness check with a technical and legal review of the plan. Provided the plan meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act and EPA regulations, it is anticipated that the approval notice will be published in the Federal Register in late 2008 or early 2009.

In the 1970s, the Tucson region frequently violated the EPA's 8-hour Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard. As a result, the EPA designated the Tucson region as a "nonattainment area" for carbon monoxide.

Since 1984, no violations of this standard have been recorded, mainly due to cleaner cars, equipment and fuels. The EPA redesignated the Tucson region as an attainment area for carbon monoxide and approved PAG's initial 10-year Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan in July 2000. The plan sets forth enforceable control measures and procedures and measures to be implemented in response to a probable or actual violation of the carbon monoxide standard.

*Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit [www.PAGnet.org](http://www.PAGnet.org) for more information.*