

## **Release of Draft Environmental Analysis for the proposed 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board), as the lead agency for the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (2022 State SIP Strategy), is preparing an environmental analysis (EA) under its certified regulatory program (Public Resources Code section 21080.5 et seq.; California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000 through 60008) to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CARB staff announces the release of the Draft Environmental Analysis for the proposed 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (Draft EA) for public comment. The Draft EA is included as Appendix B to the Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy which was released on January 31, 2022. CARB staff will later release the Proposed 2022 State SIP Strategy for consideration by the Board, along with the Final EA and Response to Comments (RTC) on the Draft EA, in Summer 2022.

### **Background on the 2022 State SIP Strategy**

In 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revised the 8-hour ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to the more health protective level of 70 ppb. Nineteen areas in California are nonattainment for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard. Per the Clean Air Act, nonattainment areas must develop SIPs to demonstrate attainment of federal air quality standards that include identifying both the magnitude of emission reductions needed by the required attainment deadline and the actions necessary to achieve those reductions. CARB's mobile source control program, along with emission reduction efforts at the local and federal level, have been tremendously successful in reducing emissions of air pollutants, resulting in significantly cleaner vehicles and equipment in operation today and improving air quality across the State. Current control programs adopted by CARB, as well as the local air districts and U.S. EPA, provide a significant down payment on the emissions reductions needed to meet the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard throughout the State, but many of the 19 nonattainment areas will need additional reductions from State measures to meet attainment deadlines.

The 2022 State SIP Strategy is being developed to identify the control measures and emissions reductions necessary from State-regulated sources to support attainment of the federal 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard across California. Under State law, CARB is responsible for developing SIP emission reduction strategies for cars, trucks, and other mobile sources, as well as consumer products and other sources under State authority. Local air districts are primarily responsible for controlling emissions from stationary sources such as power plants, factories, etc. The upcoming attainment plans for each of the nonattainment areas in California will be developed jointly by CARB and the local air districts, incorporating

reductions from measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy, as well as local air district control measures. While the 2022- State SIP Strategy will include measures and commitments for achieving the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard, the emissions reductions will also support attainment for the other national and State ambient air quality standards and provide benefits to near-source communities.

## Background on the Draft Environmental Analysis

On July 13, 2021, CARB issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the 2022 State SIP Strategy, announcing that it would prepare an EA. At a public workshop held on July 27, 2021, CARB staff discussed proposed regulatory concepts for the 2022 State SIP Strategy. Staff also described plans to prepare a Draft EA for the 2022 State SIP Strategy and invited public feedback on the scope of environmental analysis.

The Draft EA assesses the potential for significant adverse and beneficial environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions and provides a programmatic environmental analysis of the reasonably foreseeable compliance responses that could result from implementation of the 2022 State SIP Strategy. The Draft EA concluded implementation of the 2022 State SIP Strategy could result in: beneficial impacts to air quality (long-term operational-related) and greenhouse gas emissions; less than significant impacts, or no impacts, to energy demand, land use, mineral resources, population, employment and housing, public services, recreation, and wildfire; and potentially significant adverse impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality (short-term construction-related), biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise and vibration, transportation and traffic, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

## Availability of Documents

Copies of the Draft EA, the Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy, and other related materials may be obtained from CARB's website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/2022-state-strategy-state-implementation-plan-2022-state-sip-strategy>. Please contact Rebecca Fancher, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Legal Office CEQA Unit at [Rebecca.Fancher@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Fancher@arb.ca.gov) if you need physical copies of the Draft EA.

## Written Comment Period

The Draft EA will have a 45-day public comment period that will start on March 29, 2022 and end on May 13, 2022. Comments submitted outside that comment period are considered untimely. CARB may, but is not required to, respond to untimely comments. Written comments regarding the Draft EA or any environmental impacts of the 2022 State SIP Strategy must be received no later than May 13, 2022, and submitted electronically to the following website:

*Electronic submittal:* <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Rebecca Fancher, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Legal Office CEQA Unit at [Rebecca.Fancher@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Fancher@arb.ca.gov) or Rebecca Maddox, Senior Attorney, Legal Office at [Rebecca.Maddox@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Maddox@arb.ca.gov).