

August 7, 2023

Martha Guzman
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
guzman.martha@epa.gov

Dear Administrator Guzman:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is submitting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) the *2023 Eastern Kern Ozone Plan for the 75 and 70 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour Ozone Standards (2023 Plan)* prepared by the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District) and the State aggregate emissions reduction commitment specified in the CARB Staff Report. These documents demonstrate that California meets the Clean Air Act (Act) requirements for the 70 parts per billion (ppb) and 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard in the Eastern Kern nonattainment area and are being submitted as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The District adopted the 2023 Plan on May 4, 2023, and submitted it to CARB on June 20, 2023. CARB adopted the 2023 Plan and the State aggregate emissions reduction commitment specified in the CARB Staff Report on June 22, 2023. Together, these documents address the 70 ppb and 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard SIP requirements of the Act for the Eastern Kern nonattainment area.

This SIP submittal package consists of the following documents:

- I. June 20, 2023 letter from Mr. Glen Stephens, District Air Pollution Control Officer, to Dr. Steven S. Cliff, CARB Executive Officer, including:
 - a. Certified Board Resolution 2023-001-05;
 - b. Summary of Proceedings;
 - c. The Adopted 2023 Plan with Appendices;
 - d. Notice of Exemption;
 - e. Proof of publication; and
 - f. SIP Revision Checklist;
- II. May 4, 2023 District Public Hearing Notice;
- III. CARB Staff Report, CARB Review of the *2023 Eastern Kern Ozone Plan for the 75 and 70 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour Ozone Standards*;
- IV. CARB Notice of Public Meeting;
- V. CARB Resolution 23-17;

- VI. CARB Board Meeting Transcript (pending);
- VII. Summary of Public Comments and CARB Responses; and
- VIII. 2023 Plan – SIP Completeness Checklist.

The 2023 Plan includes on-road motor vehicle emission budgets using the EMFAC2017 model. To ensure that any future updates to these budgets are used expeditiously in the conformity process, we request that U.S. EPA allow budgets to be replaced upon a finding of adequacy. To accomplish this, we ask U.S. EPA to limit its approval of the budgets submitted today to last only until the effective date of future U.S. EPA adequacy findings for replacement budgets. We anticipate updating the budget using the latest approved EMFAC2021 model in the second quarter of 2024.

Without the ability to replace the applicable emission budgets with submitted budgets found adequate using the budget adequacy process, the benefits of using the updated data may not be realized for a year or more after the SIPs are submitted due to the SIP approval process. We appreciate U.S. EPA's willingness to work with us in our efforts to utilize motor vehicle emission budgets based on the most up-to-date, accurate data as soon as possible upon availability.

CARB is committed to working with U.S. EPA staff to provide any needed additional clarifying information. If you have any questions, please contact Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 445-4383, or have your staff contact Michael Benjamin, Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division, at (916) 201-8968.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer

Enclosures (14)

cc: See next page.