State of California Air Resources Board Board Item Summary

Item # 22-3-6: Public Meeting to Hear an Informational Update on the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan

Staff Recommendation:

This item is an information update. No Board action is required.

Discussion:

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 ozone standard. Under the Clean Air Act, the State Implementation Plans (SIP) must identify both the magnitude of emissions reductions needed and the actions necessary to achieve those reductions by the required attainment deadline. Controlling ozone precursor emissions, in particular oxides of nitrogen (NOx), is key towards attaining the federal ozone standards across the State. Since mobile sources account for about two-thirds of NOx emissions statewide, many of these 19 nonattainment areas in California will need significant reductions from State measures to meet the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard attainment deadlines.

The Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy describes the proposed control measures and emissions reductions from State-regulated sources to support local air districts attain the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard over the next 15 years. 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 SIPs for each of the nonattainment areas in California will be developed jointly by CARB and the local air districts, building upon the Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy, as well as local air district air quality planning documents.

With the 2022 State SIP Strategy, CARB is exploring and proposing an unprecedented variety of new measures to reduce emissions from the sources under our authority using all mechanisms available. This level of action is needed to ensure federal air quality standards are attained and to deliver on our commitments to protect public health, particularly considering the growing body of evidence on the adverse impacts of air pollution. Although the 2022 State SIP Strategy is focused on attainment of the 70 ppb ozone standard, the Strategy includes near-term measures that will provide reductions toward attainment of ozone and fine particulate (PM2.5) standards in earlier years, as well as benefits to communities.

Summary and Impacts:

Staff will present the identified control measures and associated emissions reductions described in the Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy. Attaining the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard requires action across the full spectrum of emission categories including mobile, stationary, and areawide sources in which authority is distributed between CARB, local air districts, and U.S. EPA. The Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy identifies the control measures and emissions necessary to support attainment of the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard. The final 2022 State SIP Strategy will be combined with local district commitments to demonstrate attainment. The February Board item provides an informational update on the 2022 State SIP Strategy and will provide staff an opportunity to receive Board direction and will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft 2022 State SIP Strategy. Based on Board direction, staff will present the 2022 State SIP Strategy and Final Environmental Analysis to the Board for consideration in Summer 2022.