

**State of California
Air Resources Board
Board Item Summary**

Item # 23-1-3 Public Meeting to Consider the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan for the 70 parts per billion 8-hour Ozone Standard in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Adopt the State commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley by 2037;
- Adopt the South Coast 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (2022 AQMP) developed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District);
- Adopt the planning emissions inventories, reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) offset demonstration included in the CARB Staff Report; and
- Direct the Executive Officer to submit the 2022 AQMP and above elements of the CARB Staff Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Discussion:

In 2015, U.S. EPA strengthened the 8-hour ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a more health protective level of 70 ppb (70 ppb ozone standard). On August 3, 2018, U.S. EPA designated the South Coast Air Basin (South Coast) as an Extreme nonattainment area and the Coachella Valley as a Severe nonattainment area for the 70 ppb ozone standard. Per the Clean Air Act (Act) and applicable U.S. EPA guidance, the District must develop a SIP that addresses relevant planning requirements and demonstrates attainment of the standard by 2037 in the South Coast and 2032 in the Coachella Valley. That said, during the SIP development process, the District determined that the Extreme classification was more appropriate for the Coachella Valley. Thus, the 2022 AQMP includes a request that U.S. EPA classify the Coachella Valley as an Extreme area with a 2037 attainment date. The District developed the 2022 AQMP to address SIP requirements for both the South Coast and the Coachella Valley, and adopted it on December 2, 2022.

To support attainment of the 70 ppb ozone standard in the South Coast and Coachella Valley, CARB staff developed the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (2022 State SIP Strategy), which was approved by the Board on September 22, 2022. The 2022 AQMP incorporates emissions reductions from the measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy and reductions from District measures to demonstrate attainment of the 70 ppb

ozone standard in the South Coast and Coachella Valley. As such, the CARB Staff Report contains the proposed commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions from measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy that, in addition to the District commitments included with the 2022 AQMP, will achieve the necessary reductions from State sources for attainment in 2037. Included in the measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy is a suite of actions that federal and international entities could take to further control emissions from sources primarily under their regulatory authority. For the South Coast, 'Federal Actions Needed' account for 51.5 tons per day (tpd) of the total 95.7 tpd NOx emissions reductions estimated from the measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy. The CARB Staff Report also includes planning emissions inventories, updated RFP demonstrations for South Coast and the Coachella Valley to reflect rounding in the motor vehicle emissions budgets, and an updated VMT offset demonstration for Coachella Valley as an Extreme area. Although a VMT offset demonstration for the Coachella Valley was submitted to U.S. EPA in 2020, the demonstration addressed VMT offsets for the Coachella Valley as a Severe, not an Extreme, area.

Summary and Impacts:

In totality, together with the CARB Staff Report, the 2022 AQMP addresses requirements of the Act for the South Coast and Coachella Valley ozone nonattainment areas for the 70 ppb ozone standard including emission inventories, attainment demonstrations, RFP demonstrations and associated motor vehicle emissions budgets, discussion of contingency measures, and a VMT offset demonstration for the Coachella Valley. Additional requirements as applicable under the 70 ppb ozone standard have already been addressed through separate submittals.

As detailed in the CARB Staff Report, CARB staff has reviewed the 2022 AQMP and concluded that, together with the aggregate emission reduction commitments from the 2022 State SIP Strategy, the planning emissions inventories, the RFP demonstrations for South Coast and the Coachella Valley, and VMT offset demonstration for the Coachella Valley contained in the CARB Staff Report, it meets the requirements of the Act for the 70 ppb ozone standard. If adopted, the 2022 AQMP, State aggregate emission reduction commitment, planning emissions inventories, RFP demonstrations, and VMT offset demonstration will be submitted to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.