

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

**Item # 23-2-1: Public Meeting to Consider the Western Mojave Desert 70 parts per billion Ozone Attainment Plan**

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the *Mojave Desert Federal 70 ppb Ozone Nonattainment Plan for the Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area* developed by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (Mojave Desert AQMD) and the *Antelope Valley Federal 70 ppb Ozone Nonattainment Plan for the Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area* developed by the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (Antelope Valley AQMD) (70 ppb Plan) that includes the State commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions in the Western Mojave Desert by 2032 and corrected motor vehicle emissions budget included in the CARB Staff Report. Staff also recommends that the Board direct the Executive Officer to submit the 70 ppb Plan 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 Western Mojave Desert as a Severe nonattainment area for the 70 ppb ozone standard. Under the Clean Air Act (Act) and applicable guidance, the districts must develop a SIP that addresses the Severe area planning requirements and demonstrates attainment by the 2032 ozone season. The Districts prepared the 70 ppb Plan to address these requirements. The 70 ppb Plan was adopted by the Antelope Valley AQMD on January 17, 2023, and by the Mojave Desert AQMD on January 23, 2023.

To support attainment of the 70 ppb ozone standard in the Western Mojave Desert and across the State, 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 70 ppb Plan incorporates emissions reductions from the measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy in order to demonstrate attainment of the 70 ppb ozone standard in the Western Mojave Desert in 2032. As such, the CARB Staff Report contains the proposed commitment to achieve aggregate emissions reductions in 2032 from measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy needed for attainment. Further, a typographical error was made during the development of the motor vehicle emissions budget included in the 70 ppb Plan which resulted in the NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG emissions benefits being interchanged. The CARB Staff Report

therefore also includes motor vehicle emissions budgets corrected for the Western Mojave Desert.

### **Summary and Impacts:**

In totality, together with the CARB Staff Report, the 70 ppb Plan addresses the Severe area requirements for the Western Mojave Desert for the 70 ppb ozone standard including emissions inventories, attainment demonstration, RFP demonstration and associated motor vehicle emissions budgets, and contingency measures. 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 70 ppb Plan and has concluded that, together with the aggregate emissions reduction commitment and the corrected motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the CARB Staff Report, it meets the requirements of the Act for the 70 ppb ozone standard. If adopted, the 70 ppb Plan and the relevant portions of the CARB Staff Report will be submitted to the U.S. EPA for inclusion in the California SIP.