

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

Item # 23-3-2: Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed California Smog Check Performance Standard Modeling and Program Certification for the 70 Parts Per Billion 8-hour Ozone Standard

Staff Recommendation:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board adopt the California Smog Check Performance Standard Modeling and Program Certification (Smog Check Certification) for the 70 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standard for the South Coast Air Basin, San Joaquin Valley, Coachella Valley, Western Mojave Desert, San Diego County, Sacramento Metro, Eastern Kern, and Ventura County nonattainment areas, and the 75 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standard for the San Diego County and Eastern Kern nonattainment areas, as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan. Staff also recommends that the Board direct the Executive Officer to submit the California Smog Check Certification for the 75 and 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standards to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.

Discussion:

Nonattainment areas in California are required to submit plans and related elements as revisions to the California State Implementation Plan that meet the applicable requirements of the Clean Air Act and relevant implementation rules. The Smog Check Certification is required for areas that are classified as Moderate or above and meet a prescribed population threshold, as specified in the Inspection and Maintenance (I/M, or "Smog Check") regulation (40 CFR Part 51, subpart S) and sections 182(a)(2)(B), 182(b)(4), and 182(c)(3) of the Clean Air Act and discussed in the *Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area SIP Requirements*. For the 75 and 70 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standards, areas must either demonstrate and certify that their existing program meets the I/M program requirements or amend their Smog Check Program requirements.

CARB staff prepared this Smog Check Certification to address State Implementation Plan requirements of the Clean Air Act for ozone nonattainment areas within the State. The Smog Check Certification was due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by August 3, 2022. However, CARB was not able to begin analysis until U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released guidance in October 2022. CARB staff's Performance Standard Modeling analysis demonstrated that California's Smog Check Program meets the federally mandated I/M program requirements for all applicable nonattainment areas that meet the population threshold, which includes South Coast Air Basin, San Joaquin Valley, Coachella Valley,

Western Mojave Desert, San Diego County, Sacramento Metro, Eastern Kern, and Ventura County.

Summary and Impacts:

The Smog Check Certification meets the Clean Air Act requirements and demonstrates that California's Smog Check program is at least as stringent as federal requirements and continues to meet federal I/M requirements for all applicable nonattainment areas classified as Moderate or above. If adopted, CARB will submit the Smog Check Certification to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan as applicable for the relevant nonattainment areas under the 70 ppb and 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standards.