

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

Item # 23-6-1: Public Meeting to Consider the 2023 Proposed Eastern Kern 8-Hour Ozone Plan

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) adopt the 2023 Eastern Kern 8-hour Ozone Plan (2023 Plan) developed by the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District. Staff also recommends the Board adopt CARB’s emission reduction commitment included in the CARB Staff Report. If adopted, the 2023 Plan and the CARB Staff Report will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Discussion:

The federal Clean Air Act establishes planning requirements for areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS or standard). States with areas that exceed the NAAQS must develop and implement a SIP that demonstrates attainment of the standard by a specified date and meets other requirements of the Clean Air Act. U.S. EPA strengthened the 8-hour ozone standard from 80 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb (75 ppb standard) in 2008 and further strengthened the 8-hour ozone standard to 70 ppb (70 ppb standard) in 2015. The Eastern Kern nonattainment area is currently classified as Severe for the 75-ppb standard (requiring attainment by July 15, 2027) and Serious for the 70-ppb standard. Along with the 2023 Plan, the District requests CARB to submit a request to U.S. EPA to reclassify the Eastern Kern nonattainment area as Severe for the 70-ppb standard (requiring attainment by August 3, 2033).

Under the Clean Air Act and applicable guidance, the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District must develop a SIP that addresses the Severe area requirements, including demonstrating attainment by the 2026 and 2032 ozone seasons for the 75 and 70 ppb standards. Each standard shares many of the same plan requirements. The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District prepared the 2023 Plan to address the requirements of both the 75 and 70 ppb standards. CARB is also proposing an aggregate commitment of emissions reductions of 1.8 tons per day (tpd) NO_x and 0.3 tpd ROG by 2032, with a subset to come specifically from on-road mobile source measures of 0.2 tpd NO_x and 0.03 tpd ROG. The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District Board adopted the 2023 Plan on May 4, 2023.

Summary and Impacts:

The 2023 Plan addresses the Severe area requirements for Eastern Kern for the 75 and 70 ppb standards, including emissions inventories, attainment demonstration, motor vehicle

emissions budgets, reasonable further progress demonstration, weight-of-evidence analysis, vehicle-miles-traveled offset demonstration, and contingency measures. Additional requirements as applicable under the 75 and 70 ppb standards have already been addressed through separate submittals.

As detailed in the CARB Staff Report, CARB staff has reviewed the 2023 Plan and has concluded that, together with the aggregate emission reduction commitments from the 2022 State SIP Strategy described in the 2023 Plan and the CARB Staff Report, it meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act for the 75 and 70 ppb standards. If adopted, the 2023 Plan and CARB's aggregate emission reduction commitment will be submitted to the U.S. EPA for inclusion in the California SIP.