

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 26-5-2: Public Meeting to Consider the 2026 State Implementation Plan Revisions for the California Extreme Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Staff Recommendation:

California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board adopt the 2026 State Implementation Plan Revisions for the California Extreme Ozone Nonattainment Areas (2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision), including the State commitment to achieve specified emissions reductions, planning emissions inventories, reasonable further progress demonstrations, and associated motor vehicle emissions budgets for the South Coast Air Basin, San Joaquin Valley, and Coachella Valley nonattainment areas. CARB staff also recommends the Board direct staff to submit the 2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a revision to the California state implementation plan (SIP).

Discussion:

On September 22, 2022, CARB adopted the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (2022 State SIP Strategy). The 2022 State SIP Strategy describes CARB's roadmap for reducing emissions from sources in the State to support attainment across the state of the health-based 70 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (standard). The 2022 State SIP Strategy included specific commitments for California's extreme ozone nonattainment areas, the South Coast Air Basin, Coachella Valley, and San Joaquin Valley, to support attainment of the 70-ppb 8-hour ozone standard by the deadline of 2037. The commitments in the 2022 State SIP Strategy are to develop control measures as needed to support attainment. As a part of CARB's adoption of each regional plan, CARB made commitments to achieve specified aggregate totals of emissions reductions based on the measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy. The 2022 State SIP Strategy and related attainment plans were submitted to U.S. EPA for approval in 2023 and 2024.

Cars, trucks, and other on- and nonroad mobile sources are a major contributor to excessive air pollution in California. The State's authority to regulate emissions from mobile sources is preserved under section 209 of the Clean Air Act, subject to a waiver of federal preemption. CARB may enforce emissions standards that are at least as protective, in the aggregate, as

federal emissions standards, in recognition of California's compelling and extraordinary circumstances. Consistent with section 209 of the Clean Air Act, CARB submitted and U.S. EPA acted to grant more than 100 requests for waivers (and authorizations for nonroad mobile sources) of federal preemption over the past several decades. Where required, these approvals are necessary to CARB's ability to enforce its emission standards for mobile sources, including many of the regulatory commitments in the 2022 State SIP Strategy.

Recently, California's clean air progress has been undermined by unprecedented adverse federal actions, including the illegal disapproval of three previous federal actions waiving preemption for some of the State's major vehicle and engines emissions control programs for mobile sources. The 2022 State SIP Strategy commitments and baseline emissions inventories within each regional attainment plan did not account for this adverse federal action. Since U.S. EPA has not yet acted on the attainment plans for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard or the 2022 State SIP Strategy, CARB is revising these plans to reflect these federal actions. The 2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision revises the 2022 State SIP Strategy measure commitments, aggregate emissions reduction commitments, and other elements as needed for the South Coast Air Basin, Coachella Valley, and San Joaquin Valley nonattainment areas. The 2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision supports the approval of the attainment plans currently awaiting U.S. EPA action. (This item was originally noticed for the May 2026 Board meeting, continued on May 27, 2026, to the June Board hearing, and then re-noticed on June 12, 2026, before the June hearing for the July Board meeting on July 23, 2026.)

Summary and Impacts:

CARB is proposing the 2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision, in response to the adverse federal actions, to revise the 2022 State SIP Strategy measure commitments, aggregate emissions reduction commitments, and other elements as needed for the South Coast Air Basin, Coachella Valley and San Joaquin Valley nonattainment areas. The 2026 Extreme Ozone SIP Revision will support the approval of the attainment plans currently awaiting U.S. EPA action.