

California Air Resources Board

Notice of 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

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider the adoption of 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 (2022 AQMP) developed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District). If adopted, CARB will submit the 2022 AQMP and CARB Staff Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Date: January 26, 2023

Time: 9:00 A.M.

In-Person Location:

Mary D. Nichols Campus, Southern California Headquarters
California Air Resources Board | Haagen-Smit Auditorium
4001 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, California 92507

Remote Option:

Zoom

This public meeting may continue at 8:30 a.m., on January 27, 2023. Please consult the public agenda, which will be posted ten days before the January 26, 2023, Board Meeting, for important details, including the day on which this item will be considered and how the public can participate via Zoom if they choose to be remote.

Background

The federal Clean Air Act (Act) establishes planning requirements for areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (standards). States with areas that exceed the standards must develop and implement a SIP that demonstrates attainment of the standard by a specified date and meets other requirements of the Act.

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. Under the Act and applicable 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. During the SIP development process, the District determined that the Extreme classification would also be necessary for the Coachella Valley and have included a request for reclassification within the 2022 AQMP. Thus, in addition to demonstrating attainment in the South Coast in 2037, the 2022 AQMP also demonstrates attainment in the Coachella Valley in 2037 and addresses other Extreme area requirements as applicable. The District developed the 2022 AQMP to address SIP requirements, and the District Governing Board adopted it on December 2, 2022.

To support attainment of the 70 ppb ozone standard in all areas of the State, CARB staff developed the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (2022 State SIP Strategy). The 2022 State SIP Strategy describes the control measures for State-regulated sources that CARB will pursue in order to reduce emissions to the levels needed for attainment in the South Coast, Coachella Valley, and across California. The measures in the 2022 State SIP Strategy will also reduce emissions in the many low-income and underserved communities across the State that continue to experience disproportionately high levels of air pollution and will support other CARB planning efforts. CARB approved the 2022 State SIP Strategy and the commitments to pursue the measures included therein 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. Alongside the 2022 AQMP, the CARB Staff Report contains the State's 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 of the 70 ppb ozone standard in 2037. The CARB Staff Report also includes planning emissions inventories and updated reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations for South Coast and the Coachella Valley to reflect rounding in the motor vehicle emissions budgets, and an updated vehicle miles traveled (VMT) offset demonstration for Coachella Valley to reflect an Extreme area classification. Although VMT offset demonstrations for the 70 ppb ozone standard were submitted to U.S. EPA in 2020, the demonstration included at that time for Coachella Valley was for 2032 as a Severe area.

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, contingency measures discussion, and an updated 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 has concluded that, along with the aggregate emission reduction commitments, planning emissions inventories, updated RFP demonstrations for South Coast and the Coachella Valley, and updated 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.

Proposed Action

CARB staff recommends that the Board adopt the State commitment to achieve specified emissions reductions by 2037, planning emissions inventories, RFP demonstrations, and VMT offset demonstration as included in the CARB Staff Report; adopt the 2022 AQMP; and direct staff to submit the relevant portions of the 2022 AQMP along with the CARB Staff Report to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP. CARB staff will present a written report at the meeting. Copies of the report may be obtained from CARB's website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/south-coast-2022-air-quality-management-plan>, on December 16, 2022. Please contact Chris Hopkins, Regulations Coordinator, at chris.hopkins@arb.ca.gov or (279) 208-7347 if you need physical copies of the documents.

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing during the meeting and may provide comments by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments not submitted during the meeting, must be received **no later than January 17, 2023**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerks' Office, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Scott King, Air Pollution Specialist, South Coast Air Quality Planning Section, at (279) 842-9124 or Ariel Fidely, Manager, South Coast Air Quality Planning Section, at (279) 208-7225.

Environmental Analysis

The District prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2022 AQMP (PEIR). Further, when the 2022 State SIP Strategy was proposed, CARB prepared an environmental analysis (EA) under its certified regulatory program (California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000 through 60008) to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code section 21080.5). The EA, included as Appendix B to the Proposed 2022 State SIP Strategy entitled *Final Environmental Analysis for the proposed 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan*, dated September 16, 2022, determined the 2022 State SIP Strategy could result in the following short-term and long-term impacts: beneficial impacts to air quality (long-term operational-related) and greenhouse gases; less-than-significant impacts to energy demand, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreational services and wildfire; and potentially significant and unavoidable adverse impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality (short-term construction-related), biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, transportation/traffic, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. The CARB Staff Report for the 2022 AQMP includes CARB's commitment for quantified emissions reductions from measures already analyzed in the Final EA for the 2022 State SIP Strategy.

There is no possibility that CARB's quantification of these emissions reductions resulting from measures to which CARB already committed to pursue may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment, nor any substantial evidence indicating this proposal could adversely affect air quality or any other environmental resource area.

CARB staff has determined that no subsequent or supplemental environmental analysis is required for the proposed 2022 AQMP and associated CARB Staff Report. The PEIR for the 2022 AQMP and Final EA for the 2022 State SIP Strategy fully address the implementation of the 2022 AQMP and CARB Staff Report, and no additional environmental analysis is required. CARB does not propose to modify any of these previous commitments. There are no changes in circumstances or new information that would otherwise warrant any subsequent or supplemental environmental review. CARB has determined that the proposed projects do not involve any changes that result in any new significant adverse environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant adverse impacts previously disclosed in the Final EA for the 2022 State SIP Strategy or the District's PEIR. The basis for reaching this conclusion is provided in Section IX of the CARB Staff Report.

Furthermore, while in an abundance of caution CARB has prepared an addendum-equivalent analysis, CARB notes that this SIP action also likely does not constitute a CEQA "project" in the first instance. As to the District-proposed measures, CARB lacks jurisdiction to modify or remove these measures for any purpose other than compliance with the Clean Air Act requirements. Therefore, CARB's review of those components is effectively ministerial. (See *San Diego Navy Broadway Complex Coalition v. City of San Diego* (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 924, 934.) As to the CARB-proposed measures, CARB has already committed to pursuing these measures as part of the State SIP Strategy. CARB's action here does not modify those previous commitments made at the time CARB approved the State SIP Strategy; rather, it amounts to quantifying the anticipated reductions from those commitments, and reaffirming CARB's commitment to those reductions.

Special Accommodation Request

Consistent with California Government Code section 7296.2, special accommodation or language needs may be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the hearing;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language; and
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerks' Office at cotb@arb.ca.gov or (916) 322-5594 as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled Board hearing. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Consecuente con la sección 7296.2 del Código de Gobierno de California, una acomodación especial o necesidades lingüísticas pueden ser suministradas para cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia;
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo u otro idioma; y
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al cotb@arb.ca.gov o (916) 322-5594 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de 10 días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

California Air Resources Board



Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.
Executive Officer

Date: December 16, 2022

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see [CARB's website](http://www.arb.ca.gov) (www.arb.ca.gov).