

California Air Resources Board

Notice of Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider the Proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision.

DATE: February 25, 2021

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Please see the public agenda which will be posted ten days before the February 25, 2021, Board Meeting for any appropriate direction regarding a possible remote-only Board Meeting. If the meeting is to be held in person, it will be held at the California Air Resources Board, Byron Sher Auditorium, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

This item will be considered at a meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., February 25, 2021, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., on February 26, 2021. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least ten days before February 25, 2021, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

Background

The Coachella Valley ozone nonattainment area (Coachella Valley) was designated nonattainment for the 80 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (standard) with a classification of Severe requiring attainment by June 15, 2019. Based on ambient ozone levels in 2018, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District) determined that the Coachella Valley did not attain the standard by the attainment deadline. Following a request from the District, CARB submitted a request to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to classify the Coachella Valley as an Extreme ozone nonattainment area with a new attainment deadline of June 15, 2024. On July 10, 2019, U.S. EPA classified the Coachella Valley as an Extreme ozone nonattainment area for the 80 ppb ozone standard.

Thus, California must submit a SIP revision by February 14, 2021 demonstrating that the Coachella Valley attains the 80 ppb ozone standard by June 15, 2024, including the Clean Air Act (Act) requirements for an Extreme ozone nonattainment area. The

District adopted the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan (Plan) on December 4, 2020, demonstrating attainment by the 2024 deadline and addressing all Extreme area requirements but one. The outstanding requirement, which is the subject of this Board item, is a demonstration that enforceable transportation control strategies and transportation control measures are adequate to offset the growth in emissions from growth in vehicle miles travelled (VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration). CARB staff has been working closely with District and U.S. EPA staff to prepare the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley. Unfortunately, the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration was not available for posting with the Plan.

In consideration of the U.S. EPA deadline for the SIP revision and that the Plan does not require new actions by CARB, the CARB Executive Officer, under the authority granted him by the Board, submitted the Plan to U.S. EPA. The Board will now consider the remaining SIP element, the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration prepared by CARB staff. If adopted, CARB staff will submit the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.

CARB staff have prepared the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration that is included in the CARB staff report evaluating the Plan. With the inclusion of the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration, U.S. EPA can approve the Coachella Valley Extreme 80 ppb 8-hour ozone SIP.

Proposed Action

CARB staff recommends that the Board adopt the VMT Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan, and direct staff to submit it to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP. CARB staff will also present a written report at the meeting on the Coachella Valley Extreme Ozone SIP. The report may also be obtained from CARB's website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-state-implementation-plans/nonattainment-area-plans/south-coast-air>. Because of current travel, facility, and staffing restrictions, the California Air Resources Board's offices has limited public access. Please contact Bradley Bechtold, Regulations Coordinator, at bradley.bechtold@arb.ca.gov if you need physical copies of the documents. Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at 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 at the meeting, must be received **no later than February 22, 2021**, 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.

CARB requests that written statements on this item be filed at least ten days prior to the meeting so that CARB staff and Board members have additional time to consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Scott King, Air Pollution Specialist, South Coast Air Quality Planning Section at (916) 322-2832 or Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch at (916) 324 7163.

Environmental Analysis

CARB, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has reviewed the proposed VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration and concluded that this is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action may result in significant adverse impact on the environment. A brief explanation of the basis for reaching this conclusion is included in the staff report.

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 meeting;
- 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 (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled Board meeting. 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 (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax a (916) 322-3928 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de diez 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

Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

Date:

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: \(www.ARB.ca.gov\)](http://www.ARB.ca.gov).