

State of California
Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

**ITEM # 20-6-1: Public Meeting to Consider Proposed 70 Parts Per Billion
Ozone State Implementation Plan Submittal**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the 70 parts per billion (ppb) Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittal and directs the Executive Officer to submit the 70 ppb Ozone SIP Submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan, to be effective, for purposes of federal law, upon approval by U.S. EPA.

DISCUSSION:

The federal Clean Air Act (Act) establishes planning requirements for areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Standards). Areas are designated as nonattainment based on monitored exceedances of these Standards. In 2015, U.S. EPA strengthened the Standard for 8-hour ozone from 75 to 70 parts ppb. Effective August 3, 2018, U.S. EPA completed area designations for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard with 19 areas in California classified as marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme: Amador County, Butte County, Calaveras County, Imperial County, Kern County (Eastern Kern), Los Angeles-San Bernardino Counties (West Mojave Desert), Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, Mariposa County, Nevada County (Western part), Riverside County (Coachella Valley), Sacramento Metro, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, San Luis Obispo (Eastern part), Sutter Buttes, Tuolumne County, Tuscan Buttes, and Ventura County. The Act requires states and local governments to prepare baseline emission inventories for all areas exceeding the ozone Standards within two years of designation. Per U.S. EPA guidance, CARB has prepared the 2017 baseline emissions inventory for all the ozone nonattainment areas except for San Diego, which will be included in its SIP later this year.

Also within two years of nonattainment designations, the Act requires states to submit enforceable transportation control strategies and transportation control measures to offset any growth in emissions from growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or numbers of vehicle trips (VMT emissions offset demonstration) for severe and extreme ozone nonattainment areas. CARB prepared VMT emissions-offset demonstrations for three of the four nonattainment areas for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard: South Coast Air Basin, San Joaquin Valley, and Coachella Valley. CARB staff is in the process of conducting the analysis for the Western Mojave Desert.

CARB staff has reviewed and considered the 70 ppb Ozone SIP Submittal, along with comments presented by affected parties through public workshops, individual meetings, and other outreach efforts, and finds that it meets the requirements of the Act.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

The 70 ppb Ozone SIP Submittal documents the 2017 baseline inventory and VMT offset demonstration required for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard as part of the SIP submittal. Emission inventory development is an ongoing process. As new information becomes available and methodologies and models are improved, inventories are updated to improve accuracy and ensure they reflect the best available data. When further improvements are ready, they will be incorporated into additional SIP revisions required for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard.

This item is not considered to be controversial.