

State of California
California Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

**ITEM # 20-7-1: Public Meeting to Consider the Eastern Kern Ozone
Conformity Budget Update**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the Eastern Kern Ozone Transportation Conformity Budget Update as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

DISCUSSION:

Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (Act) establishes transportation conformity requirements intended to ensure that transportation activities do not interfere with air quality progress. The Act requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects that obtain federal funds or approvals conform to applicable SIPs before being approved by a metropolitan planning organization.

On July 27, 2017, the Eastern Kern County Air Pollution Control District Governing Board approved the Eastern Kern 2017 Ozone Attainment Plan (2017 Ozone Plan). The 2017 Ozone Plan contained transportation conformity budgets for the 75 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standard in the attainment year of 2020. CARB approved the 2017 Ozone Plan on September 28, 2017, and submitted it to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). To support approval, the U.S. EPA requested CARB update the 2020 transportation conformity budgets by rounding to the nearest tenth of a ton rather than whole ton of emissions. CARB staff updated the 2020 transportation conformity budgets to reflect this new rounding convention and included documentation that the updated transportation conformity budgets comply with the Act.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

CARB staff has reviewed the Eastern Kern Ozone Transportation Conformity Budget Update and has concluded that it meets the applicable Act requirements. If approved, it will be submitted to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.