

State of California
Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

ITEM # 20-12-1: Public Meeting to Consider Approval of the Proposed San Diego 8-Hour Ozone State Implementation Plan Submittal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the *2020 Plan for Attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone in San Diego County* (Plan) developed by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (District) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) for submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), including commitments by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

DISCUSSION:

The Plan addresses two federal 8-hour ozone standards, the 75 parts per billion (ppb) and 70 ppb standards, and represents the next building block in planning efforts to meet increasingly health-protective air quality standards. Over the past three decades, ozone levels in San Diego County have shown significant improvement in response to District and CARB control programs that reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and reactive organic gases (ROG), which are precursors to ozone formation. Despite the District's substantial progress to improve air quality over the past decades, San Diego County still does not meet the 75 ppb and 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standards.

On August 23, 2019, U.S. EPA determined that San Diego County did not meet the 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard and classified the area as a Serious nonattainment area, with a July 20, 2021, attainment deadline. For the more health-protective 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard, U.S. EPA designated San Diego County as a Moderate nonattainment area with an August 3, 2024, attainment deadline. For this Plan, the District and CARB determined the most expeditious attainment deadline for both standards corresponds to a Severe area classification with attainment deadlines of July 20, 2027, for the 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard, and August 3, 2033, for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone standard.

Continuing reductions in NO_x and ROG emissions through implementation of current control programs provide the bulk of the reductions needed to attain the 8-hour ozone standards by the attainment deadlines of 2027 and 2033. To attain in 2033, CARB is committing to reduce NO_x emissions by 4.0 tons per day (tpd) in 2032 along

with the District's new commitment to achieve 1.7 tpd of NOx reductions from new measures.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

CARB staff has reviewed the Plan and has concluded that it meets the applicable Clean Air Act requirements. CARB staff recommends that the Board approve the Proposed 2020 Plan for Attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone in San Diego County and direct staff to submit the Plan to U.S. EPA as a revision to the California SIP.