

**State of California
Air Resources Board
Board Item Summary**

Item # 21-1-1: Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley Extreme Ozone State Implementation Plan

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopt the proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset Demonstration as part of the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan (Plan) for the 80 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (standard). Staff also recommends that the Board direct the Executive Officer to submit the VMT Offset Demonstration to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for inclusion in the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) to be effective, for purposes of federal law, upon approval by U.S. EPA to meet requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

Discussion:

On July 10, 2019, U.S. EPA classified the Coachella Valley as an Extreme nonattainment area for ozone with an attainment deadline of June 15, 2024. As required by the Clean Air Act (Act), the South Coast Air Quality Management District developed the Plan and on December 28, 2020, the State submitted the Plan to U.S. EPA. The Plan demonstrated attainment of the standard by the attainment deadline and addressed all other Extreme area SIP requirements with the exception of a VMT emissions offset demonstration. The Act requires states to submit a VMT emissions offset demonstration as part of a SIP to show that enforceable transportation control strategies and transportation control measures will offset any increase in emissions from growth in VMT or numbers of vehicle trips in Severe and Extreme ozone nonattainment areas. CARB staff developed the Proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration to meet this requirement of the Act.

Summary and Impacts:

Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration meets the requirements of the Act and will allow U.S. EPA to approve the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 80 ppb 8-hour ozone standard.