

Proposed

State of California
Air Resources Board

**Coachella Valley Vehicle Miles Traveled
Offset Demonstration**

Resolution 21-1

February 25, 2021

Agenda Item No.: 21-1-1

Whereas, sections 39600 and 39601 of the California Health and Safety Code (H&SC) authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

Whereas, CARB is responsible for preparing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining and maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) as required by the federal Clean Air Act (Act) (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.), and to this end is directed by H&SC section 39602 to coordinate the activities of all local and regional air pollution control and air quality management districts (districts) as necessary to comply with the Act;

Whereas, H&SC section 39602 also provides that the SIP shall include only those provisions necessary to meet the requirements of the Act;

Whereas, CARB has responsibility pursuant to H&SC sections 39002, 39500, 39602, and 41650 for ensuring that the districts meet their responsibilities under the Act;

Whereas, CARB is authorized by H&SC section 39600 to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of its powers and duties;

Whereas, H&SC sections 39515 and 39516 provide that any power, duty, purpose, function, or jurisdiction of the Board may be delegated to the CARB Executive Officer as the Board deems appropriate;

Whereas, the Act's section 182(d)(1)(A) requires SIPs to include enforceable transportation control strategies and transportation control measures to offset any growth in emissions from growth in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) or number of vehicle trips;

Whereas, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the regional transportation agency for the Coachella Valley and has responsibility for preparing and implementing transportation control measures to reduce vehicle trips, vehicle use, vehicle miles traveled, vehicle idling and traffic congestion for the purpose of reducing motor vehicle emissions pursuant to H&SC section 40460(b) and 40465;

Whereas, on July 18, 1997, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) promulgated an 8-hour ozone NAAQS of 80 parts per billion (ppb) (80 ppb ozone standard);

Whereas, on July 10, 2019, U.S. EPA classified the Coachella Valley as an Extreme nonattainment area for the 80 ppb ozone standard with an attainment date of June 15, 2024;

Whereas, consistent with the Act, CARB, in consultation with SCAG, the respective metropolitan planning organization, and the local air districts, has developed the VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration for the 80 ppb 8-hour ozone standard for Coachella Valley (Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration);

Whereas, the Coachella Valley VMT Emissions Offset Demonstration contains the most up-to-date information for the Coachella Valley 8-hour ozone nonattainment area;

Whereas, federal law set forth in section 110(a)(1) of the Act and Title 40, CFR, section 51.102, requires that one or more public hearings, preceded by at least a 30-day notice and opportunity for public review, must be conducted prior to the adoption and submittal to the U.S. EPA of any SIP revision;

Whereas, as required by federal law, CARB made the proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration available for public review at least 30 days prior to the Board hearing;

Whereas, the Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration was released to the public on January 21, 2021, and made available on CARB's website at [South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley Air Quality Plans | California Air Resources Board](#);

Whereas, CARB's regulatory program that involves the adoption, approval, amendment, or repeal of standards, rules, regulations, or plans has been certified by the Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; see also California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(d)), and CARB conducts its CEQA review according to this certified program (California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000-60008);

Whereas, CARB staff has determined that the proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061(b)(3) ("common sense" exemption) because the VMT Offset

Demonstration is a quantification exercise that will result in no potential for changes in the real world environment, therefore there is no possibility that the proposed activity may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; and

Whereas, the Board finds that:

CARB has reviewed and considered the proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration and finds that it meets the requirements of the Act in that it includes the calculations for reactive organic gas emissions, adopted transportation control strategies and transportation control measures;

The proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061(b)(3) because substantial evidence in the record shows with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposal may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; and

The proposal is consistent with CARB's environmental justice policies and do not disproportionately impact people of any race, culture, or income.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration as set forth in the Proposed Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration, released to the public on January 21, 2021.

Be it further resolved that the Board hereby directs the Executive Officer to submit the Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration to U.S. EPA for inclusion in the California SIP, to be effective, for purposes of federal law, upon approval by U.S. EPA.

Be it further resolved that the Board directs the Executive Officer to work with the districts and U.S. EPA to take appropriate action to resolve any completeness or approvability issues that may arise regarding the SIP submission.

Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to include in the SIP submittal any technical corrections, clarifications, or additions that may be necessary to secure U.S. EPA approval.

Be it further resolved that the Board certifies under Title 40 C.F.R. section 51.102 that the Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration was adopted after notice and public hearing as required by Title 40 C.F.R. section 51.102.