

State of California  
**Air Resources Board**

**BOARD ITEM SUMMARY**

**ITEM # 20-11-3:      Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed West Mojave  
Desert Vehicle Miles Traveled Offset Demonstration**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the California Air Resource Board (CARB or Board) approves the Proposed West Mojave Desert Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset Demonstration and directs the Executive Officer to submit the West Mojave Desert 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.

**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 per billion (ppb). Effective August 3, 2018, U.S. EPA completed area designations for the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard including the western portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties (West Mojave Desert) as a severe nonattainment area.

Within two years of designation, the Act requires states to submit enforceable transportation control strategies and transportation control measures to offset any growth in emissions from growth in VMT or numbers of vehicle trips (VMT emissions offset demonstration) for severe and extreme ozone nonattainment areas. The Proposed West Mojave Desert VMT Offset Demonstration details the VMT emissions-offset demonstration for West Mojave Desert.

CARB staff has reviewed and considered the West Mojave Desert VMT Offset Demonstration and finds that it meets the requirements of the Act.

**SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:**

The West Mojave Desert VMT Offset Demonstration documents West Mojave's VMT offset demonstration as required by the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone Standard as part of the SIP submittal.