

## Notice of Exemption

- Project Title:** Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Offset Demonstration for the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan
- Project Location:** Statewide
- Public Meeting Date:** February 25, 2021; Agenda Item # 21-1-1
- Project Description:** On December 28, 2020, the State submitted the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan (Plan) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The Plan addressed all Extreme area State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements with the exception of a VMT emissions offset demonstration. The Clean Air 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. Adoption of the Coachella Valley VMT Offset Demonstration by the Board will allow U.S. EPA to approve the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Ozone Plan for the 80 ppb 8-hour ozone standard.

This notice is to advise that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board), as the lead agency, approved the above action on February 25, 2021.

CARB has determined that this project is exempt from CEQA under the "general rule" or "common sense" exemption (14 CCR 15061(b)(3)). The common sense exemption states a project is exempt from CEQA if "the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." Based on CARB's review it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project would result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; therefore, this activity is exempt from CEQA. A brief explanation of the basis for reaching this conclusion is included in resolution for this project.

The *resolution* and all other related documents are available for public inspection on the CARB webpage at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/ma022521>

These documents may also be examined at:

California Air Resources Board  
Attn: Board Administration and Regulatory Coordination Unit  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Certified:**                     *Rebecca Fancher*                      
CARB CEQA Unit

**Date:**           3/9/2021