



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of November 23, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 4-G

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District withdraws the 2018 PM2.5 Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 Standard

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

On October 5, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 office indicated that they would be proposing disapproval of the 2018 PM2.5 Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 Standard. This proposed disapproval would lead to a corresponding disapproval of transportation conformity emissions budgets. Such an action would result in a conformity “freeze” for the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies of the San Joaquin Valley, which would inhibit their ability to add or modify projects that are non-exempt from conformity demonstrations. Further, depending on the timing of eventual approvals or disapprovals of a revised 2018 PM2.5 Plan, the Valley could end up subject to a “conformity lapse,” which could result in sanctions and an eventual loss of significant funding to the region.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has withdrawn the 2018 PM2.5 Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 Standard. This would allow the San Joaquin Valley to avoid triggering a conformity “freeze” or funding sanction clocks and allow adequate time to revise the Plan for consideration by EPA at a later time. MCTC and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies are committed to working with all relevant agencies to deliver a 2018 PM2.5 Plan that meets the expectations of stakeholders and the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.