



# Air Resources Board



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Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chairman**  
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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

March 11, 2009

Ms. Laura Yoshii  
Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Ms. Yoshii:

We are transmitting our recommendations for area designations and boundaries under the revised federal 8-hour ozone standard, as required under the Federal Clean Air Act.

## **Ozone Nonattainment Areas**

We base our recommendations on ambient ozone concentrations measured from 2006 through 2008 by 180 Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitors located throughout California. The Air Resources Board's (ARB) recommendation is that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) designate twenty-one areas as nonattainment for the revised ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million. Enclosure 1, included with this letter, lists the proposed nonattainment areas, which include all fifteen areas currently designated nonattainment for the 0.08 parts per million ozone standard, along with six new or expanded areas.

We also recommend that U.S. EPA designate twelve areas as attainment, where air quality data are sufficient to determine that they meet the federal standard. Finally, five should be deemed unclassifiable, where air quality data are insufficient to make a determination.

## **Nonattainment Area Boundaries**

Regarding nonattainment area boundaries, ARB makes the following recommendations:

- Retain the existing nonattainment area boundaries for the fifteen areas that are currently designated as nonattainment for ozone.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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- Expand the Eastern Kern County nonattainment area to include Indian Wells Valley and the town of Ridgecrest.
- Establish our recommended nonattainment boundaries for new rural transport areas. These areas are Southern Inyo County, Northeast San Bernardino County, Eastern San Luis Obispo County, the high elevation site on the Tuscan Buttes and the specified portion of Pinnacles National Monument located in San Benito County.

### **Enclosures**

We include the following materials in this package:

- Recommended nonattainment/attainment/unclassifiable areas (Enclosure 1).
- Staff Report (Enclosure 2).
- Information supporting recommendations for nonattainment areas (Enclosure 3).
- Boundary descriptions (Enclosure 4).
- 2006-2008 data for all of California's ozone monitoring sites (Enclosure 5).

### **Classification Process**

We are completing a technical evaluation of the how well the classification scheme used for the current 8-hour ozone standard worked for California. Upon completion we will share this information, and want to work with U.S. EPA on potential changes that would improve the ozone classification process.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-4383 if you have any questions regarding these recommendations, or have your staff contact Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, at (916) 322-7137.

Sincerely,

*/s/*

James N. Goldstene  
Executive officer

Enclosures

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