



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# Air Resources Board

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Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair  
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Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

February 14, 2007

Mr. Sean Hogan, Chief  
Technical Support Office (AIR-7)  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Hogan:

I am writing to request that the South Coast Air Quality Management District PM10 exceedances which occurred at the two Coachella Valley monitoring sites on July 16, 2006, be flagged as natural events due to wildfire smoke and windblown dust. Documentation on the windblown dust and wildfires and their impact on air quality is attached.

The 1996 United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) policy for areas affected by PM10 natural events allows such data to be flagged and thus excluded from consideration by U.S. EPA when making decisions related to the attainment status of an area. This policy requires that States submit documentation to support flagging to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office.

We are therefore formally requesting that you flag these exceedances as PM10 natural events and send confirmation to us by letter after the data has been flagged. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation, please contact Ms. Sylvia Morrow, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at [smorrow@arb.ca.gov](mailto:smorrow@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Linda C. Murchison, Chief  
Planning and Technical Support Division

Attachment

cc: See next page.

*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>.*

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California Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Ms. Elaine Chang, Ph.D.  
Deputy Executive Officer  
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, California 91765-4178

Sylvia Morrow, Manager  
Particulate Matter Analysis Section