



# Air Resources Board

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**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chairman**  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

August 12, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Hogan:

I am writing to request that the May 21 and 22, 2008, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District PM10 exceedances at the Bakersfield-Golden and Corcoran monitoring sites be flagged as natural events due to windblown dust. Documentation on these windblown dust events and their impact on air quality is enclosed.

Unusually high concentrations were documented at the Bakersfield-Golden State Highway and the Corcoran-Patterson Avenue monitoring sites on both May 21 and May 22, 2008. Winds at nearby Lemoore Naval Air Station and Bakersfield Meadows Field Airport were consistently above 18 miles per hour, with gusts as high as 48 miles per hour on both days at Lemoore and 33 miles per hour at Bakersfield on May 21. These high winds were experienced throughout the San Joaquin Valley and there were numerous reports of both high winds and dust storms. Dry conditions that had been experienced throughout the San Joaquin Valley, coupled with the high winds, allowed for the entrainment of the dust into the atmosphere. Without the arid conditions, high winds, and subsequent entrained dust, the concentrations measured at Bakersfield and Corcoran on May 21 and 22, 2008 would have been below the federal standard.

On March 22, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) adopted the 'Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events' rule that allows 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 rule, which became effective on May 22, 2007, requires that States submit documentation to support flagging to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office.

*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

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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 Zulawnick, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at [szulawni@arb.ca.gov](mailto:szulawni@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Karen Magliano, Chief  
Air Quality Data Branch  
Planning and Technical Support Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Scott Nestor, Planning Director  
San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution Control District  
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, California 93726

Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager  
Particulate Matter Analysis Section  
Planning and Technical Support Division