



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
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Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 24, 2007

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 September 22, 2006 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District PM10 exceedances at the Corcoran, Oildale, and Bakersfield monitoring sites, be flagged as natural events due to windblown dust and smoke. Documentation on the windblown dust and smoke from wildfires and their impact on air quality is attached.

Unusually high concentrations were documented during a period of normal emissions activity with winds that were three standard deviations above the norm. Dry conditions throughout the San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento Valleys coupled with high winds, allowed for the entrainment of dust into the atmosphere. Lower wind speeds in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley accounted for the subsequent deposition of dust at the monitoring sites. In addition, smoke from recent wildfires elevated background concentrations. Without the arid conditions, high winds and subsequent entrained dust, and smoke from the wildfires, the concentrations measured at Corcoran, Oildale, and Bakersfield on September 22, 2006 would have been below the federal standard.

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.

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

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.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Attachment

cc: See next page.

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

Sylvia Morrow, Manager
Particulate Matter Analysis Section