



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

# Air Resources Board

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**Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair**  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

June 12, 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 December 8, 2006, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District PM10 exceedances at the Corcoran and Bakersfield monitoring sites be flagged as natural events due to windblown dust. Documentation on the windblown dust impact on air quality is attached.

Unusually high concentrations were documented during a period of normal emissions activity with winds that were considerably above the norm. Dry conditions were noted throughout the San Joaquin Valley. This, coupled with high winds, particularly southeast of Bakersfield, allowed for the entrainment and subsequent transport of dust to Bakersfield and Corcoran. Without the arid conditions, high winds and subsequent entrained dust, the concentrations measured at Corcoran and Bakersfield on December 8, 2006, 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 Morrow, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at [smorrow@arb.ca.gov](mailto:smorrow@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Attachment

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