



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

March 11, 2010

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Exceptional event requests regarding exceedances of the PM_{2.5} NAAQS in Shasta County, CA and Plumas County, CA

Dear Ms. Nichols:

This letter responds to ARB's submittal regarding the July 8, 2007 PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) exceedance at the Portola monitor in Plumas County, and ARB's submittal regarding PM_{2.5} exceedances in Plumas and Shasta Counties on June 23, June 26, July 11, July 19, and July 23, 2008. ARB has requested that EPA exclude these exceedances from consideration when making decisions related to Shasta County's and Plumas County's attainment status.

Our response to ARB's request is governed by the "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events" rule (72 FR 13560, March 22, 2007). After careful consideration of the information provided, we are concurring with ARB's request to flag these exceedances as exceptional events. The basis for our decision is set forth in the enclosed document.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please have your staff contact Deborah Jordan, Director of the Air Division at (415) 947-8715.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: James Goldstene, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, Planning and Technical Support
Division, California Air Resources Board
Gretchen Bennitt, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Russ Mull, Shasta County Air Quality Management District
Christa Stewart, Maidu Indians
Sophia Villaruel, Pitt River Indians