



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

December 8, 2011

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

The Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) find the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Bay Area) PM2.5 nonattainment area in attainment for the 2006 24-hour fine particulate National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This request is based upon review of quality assured and certified PM2.5 data that show attainment of the PM2.5 NAAQS during the 2008-2010 period. ARB recognizes that a finding of attainment under the Clean Air Act does not constitute a redesignation to attainment.

On October 8, 2009, the Bay Area was designated nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS. An area is considered to be in attainment of the 24-hour PM2.5 standard when the design value is less than or equal to 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The 24-hour design value for the Bay Area is 31 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for 2008-2010, as illustrated in Table 1 in the enclosure. This design value is valid for a comparison to the NAAQS because it meets completeness criteria for each quarter within the designated three-year period.

Under U.S. EPA's Clean Data Policy, a finding of attainment supports suspension of certain State Implementation Plan requirements, such as attainment and progress plans so long as the area remains in attainment or until the area completes the requirements to be redesignated to attainment. Since the Bay Area now meets the standard, ARB requests a finding of attainment from U.S. EPA for the Bay Area PM2.5 nonattainment areas well as suspension of the attainment and progress plan requirements.

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

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, at (916) 322-7137.

Sincerely,



James N. Goldstone
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Deborah Jordan, Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Air Division, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. Jack Broadbent
Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109

Ms. Lynn Terry
Deputy Executive Officer

Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief
Air Quality Data Branch

Enclosure

Table 1. PM2.5 Summary Statistics for Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 2008-2010

Yearly 98 th Percentile ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)			24-hr Design Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
36.3	33.5	22.8	36	36	31