



Air Resources Board



Mary D. Nichols, Chairman

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Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

June 2, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

The Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) find the Chico PM_{2.5} nonattainment area in attainment for the 2006 24-hour fine particulate PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This request is based upon review of quality assured and certified PM_{2.5} data that show attainment of the NAAQS during the 2008-2010 period. In addition to making a finding of attainment, we also request that the U.S. EPA suspend the attainment plan and progress plan requirements. ARB recognizes that a finding of attainment under the Clean Air Act does not constitute a redesignation to attainment.

On October 8, 2009, the Chico area was designated nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. An area is considered to be in attainment of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard when the design value is less than or equal to 35 µg/m³. The 24-hour design value for the Chico area is 32 µg/m³ 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. However, the 2008 design value excludes data affected by exceptional events, as shown in Table 2 in the enclosure. These data have been flagged in U.S. EPA's Air Quality System database and the documentation was submitted to U.S. EPA on August 28, 2009.

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 Chico area now meets the standard, ARB requests a finding of attainment from U.S. EPA for the Chico PM_{2.5} nonattainment area.

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

Sincerely,



James N. Goldstone
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Deborah Jordan, Director
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Air Division, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

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Lynn Terry
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