



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Air Resources Board

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



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 28, 2009

Mr. Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.
Air Quality Analysis Office Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, AIR-7
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Dr. Lakin: *Matt*

During the summer of 2008, an unusually intensive outbreak of lightning strikes from a series of dry thunderstorms ignited an unprecedented summer fire season. Extensive impacts occurred across Northern and Central California, with smoke and haze lingering over the region for much of the summer. Numerous monitoring sites, comprising both Federal Reference Method and Federal Equivalent Method monitors, recorded elevated particulate matter (PM) concentration levels, with many days above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. The California Air Resources Board is requesting exclusion of data from 33 monitoring sites in 15 Air Districts where smoke caused levels to exceed those historically seen during the summer particulate season. Documentation on these wildfire smoke events and their impact on air quality are enclosed.

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.

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AIR DIVISION
U.S. EPA, REGION 9

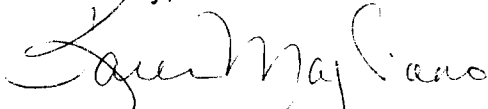
*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.
For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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We are therefore formally requesting you concur that these exceedances are PM2.5 and PM10 natural events and send us confirmation by letter. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation please contact Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at szulawni@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures (3)

cc: (With (1) enclosure)

Mr. Jack Broadbent
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Mr. W. James Wagoner
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Mr. Lakhmir Grewal
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Mr. Mark Black
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Mr. Doug Gearhart
Air Pollution Control Officer
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Mendocino County Air Quality Management District
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Mr. Rick Martin, Jr.
Air Pollution Control Officer
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Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager
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