



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

June 14, 2010

**OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) response to California's lead (Pb) designation recommendations, and to inform you of our approach for completing the designations for the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for lead. As explained below, we are proposing to adopt California's recommended nonattainment designation and boundary for the portion of Los Angeles County within the South Coast air basin by October 15, 2010, and will extend the designation process by up to one year for the remainder of the State.

Thank you for your October 14, 2009 letter conveying the State's recommendations on air quality designations for the revised lead NAAQS throughout California. Reducing levels of lead pollution is an important part of EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, most notably in children. Exposures to low levels of lead early in life have been linked to adverse effects on IQ, learning, memory and behavior.

On October 15, 2008, EPA substantially strengthened the NAAQS for lead. The new standards, set at 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), are 10 times tighter than the previous standards. In conjunction with strengthening the lead NAAQS, EPA also established new criteria for siting ambient lead monitors. The pre-existing ambient lead monitoring network was inadequate for determining whether many areas are meeting the revised lead NAAQS. Monitors meeting the new network siting requirements were to begin operation by January 1, 2010.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to complete the initial designation process within two years of promulgating a new or revised NAAQS. If the Administrator has insufficient information to make these designations, EPA has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. In light of the new monitoring network, which will generate additional information in the upcoming year, EPA intends to complete the lead designations in two rounds. In the first round, to be completed by October 15, 2010, EPA is designating as "nonattainment" any area that is violating the 2008 lead NAAQS based on data from the pre-2010 monitoring network. For all other areas, EPA is extending the deadline for designations by up to one year so that data from the newly deployed monitors can be considered in making appropriate designation decisions. EPA will complete the second round of lead designations no later than October 15, 2011.

Consistent with the Clean Air Act, and after carefully considering California's recommendations and all the associated technical information for the 2008 lead NAAQS, including the most recent air quality data from 2007-2009, EPA is proposing to adopt California's recommended nonattainment designation and boundary for the portion of Los Angeles County within the South Coast air basin. The enclosed draft Technical Support Document provides a detailed analysis that supports our preliminary decision.

If your state has additional information that you want EPA to consider with respect to the nonattainment designation, please submit it to us by August 16, 2010. We are also making EPA's preliminary designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review. We are accepting public comments on our preliminary decisions through August 16, 2010. We will review any information we receive from the State of California and the general public by this date, and we plan to promulgate the first round of final designations by October 15, 2010.

For all other areas in California, EPA is deferring the designations decisions for up to one additional year so that additional lead air quality data can be collected. If you would like to submit updated recommendations for those areas for our consideration in the second round of designations, we request that you do so by December 15, 2010. For the second round of designations, we will notify states and tribes of our preliminary responses to their recommendations by no later than June 17, 2011.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2008 lead NAAQS. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Deborah Jordan, Air Division Director, at 415-947-8715.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, California EPA
Mary Nichols, Chairman, California Air Resources Board
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
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Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env., Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management
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