



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:

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.

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

Mr. Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.
August 28, 2009
Page 2

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,

/s/

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

Enclosures (3)

cc: (With (1) enclosure)

Mr. Jack Broadbent
Air Pollution Control Officer
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109-7799

Mr. W. James Wagoner
Air Pollution Control Officer
Butte County Air Quality Management District
2525 Dominic Drive, Suite J
Chico, California 95928-7184

Mr. Lakhmir Grewal
Air Pollution Control Officer
Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District
Government Center
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, California 95249-9709

Mr. Harry Krug
Air Pollution Control Officer
Colusa County Air Pollution Control District
100 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite F
Colusa, California 95932-3246

Mr. Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.
August 28, 2009
Page 3

Mr. Dave Valler
Air Pollution Control Officer
Feather River Air Quality Management District
1007 Live Oak Boulevard, Suite B-3
Yuba City, California 95991

Mr. Mark Black
Air Pollution Control Officer
Glenn County Air Pollution Control District
P.O. Box 351 (720 North Colusa Street)
Willows, California 95988-0351

Mr. Doug Gearhart
Air Pollution Control Officer
Lake County Air Quality Management District
885 Lakeport Boulevard
Lakeport, California 95453-5405

Mr. Christopher D. Brown
Air Pollution Control Officer
Mendocino County Air Quality Management District
306 East Gobbi Street
Ukiah, California 95482-5511

Mr. Rick Martin, Jr.
Air Pollution Control Officer
North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
2300 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, California 95501-3327

Ms. Gretchen Bennitt
Air Pollution Control Officer
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
P.O. Box 2509
Grass Valley, California 95945-2509

Mr. Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.
August 28, 2009
Page 4

Mr. Tom Christofk
Air Pollution Control Officer
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 240
Auburn, California 95603

Mr. Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
777 12th Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, California 95814-1908

Mr. Seyed Sadredin
Air Pollution Control Officer
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 East Gettysburg
Fresno, California 93726

Mr. Russ Mull
Air Pollution Control Officer
Shasta County Air Quality Management District
1855 Placer Street, Suite 101
Redding, California 96001-1759

Mr. Patrick Griffin
Air Pollution Control Officer
Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District
525 South Foothill Drive
Yreka, California 96097-3036

Mr. Mat Ehrhardt
Air Pollution Control Officer
Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103
Davis, California 95616-4882

Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager
Particulate Matter Analysis Section
Planning and Technical Support Division