



# 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](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

November 25, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

We are transmitting our recommendations for area designations and boundaries under the federal air quality standards for particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) as requested in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) memorandum of April 16, 2013 from the Assistant Administrator to the Regional Administrators.

## **PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Areas**

We base our recommendations on ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations measured from 2010 through 2012 by over 90 Federal Reference Method (FRM) and Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) monitors located throughout California. FEM data for both the South Coast Air Basin and the San Diego Air Basin were excluded from this process as formally requested by the affected air districts and detailed in the accompanying staff report.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) recommends that U.S. EPA designate the following three areas as nonattainment for the revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual standard of 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, with the remaining areas of the State designated as unclassifiable/attainment:

- South Coast Air Basin.
- San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.
- Imperial County (partial).

As specified in the enclosed Staff Report, ARB staff recommends that the nonattainment area boundaries coincide with the each area's current PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment boundary.

*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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ARB's designation recommendations include only non-tribal lands. ARB is committed to working with tribal authorities to protect and enhance the ambient air quality throughout the State.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, at (916) 324-7163.

Sincerely,

  
Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Brad Poirez  
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Mr. Seyed Sadredin  
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Mr. Barry Wallerstein  
Air Pollution Control Officer  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 E. Copley Drive  
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Ms. Lynn Terry  
Deputy Executive Officer  
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Ms. Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief  
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