



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION IX**

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

**OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**AUG 18 2008**

The Honorable Jim Gibbons  
Governor of Nevada  
Capitol Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Governor Gibbons:

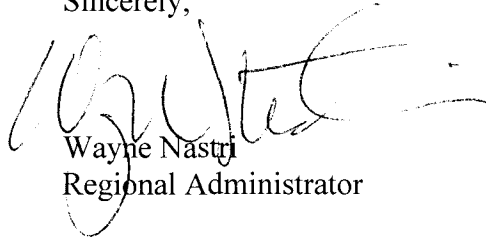
Thank you for your recommendation on the status of fine particle pollution throughout Nevada. Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about 1/30<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms such as coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine-particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the December 4, 2007 letter from Leo Drozdoff, Administrator, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, submitting Nevada's recommendation on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. We have also reviewed the technical information submitted to support Nevada's recommendation. We appreciate the effort that your state has made to develop this supporting information. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees that your entire state is in attainment at this time. This means that across your state, all areas meet the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. This is truly good news for the residents of your state.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution both regionally and across the country such as the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines. In addition, state programs to attain the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards will also help to reduce unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution.

We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards by December 18, 2008. Please also be aware that in the near future, EPA is planning to publish a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comments on our intended designation decisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Deborah Jordan, Air Division Director, at 415-947-8715. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Nastri", is written over the typed name and title.

Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator

cc: Leo Drozdoff, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Colleen Cripps, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Andrew Goodrich, Division Director, Air Quality Management Division  
Washoe County District Health Department  
Lewis Wallenmeyer, Director, Department of Air Quality and Environmental  
Management