

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor

AIR-1

William R. Rhodes
Governor



Joseph Manuel
Lieutenant Governor

February 5, 2010

Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

RE: Designation Recommendation for the Gila River Indian Community under the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) and the 1997 annual NAAQS for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$).

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

Thank you for the letter dated October 14, 2009, indicating the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) intent to reevaluate the designation recommendation for Pinal County under the $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

The Gila River Indian Community (the "Community") is formally submitting information addressing the nine (9) factors listed by EPA in the Federal Register Notice in support of the Community's request to designate all of the Community's lands within the exterior boundaries of the Community as "attainment/unclassifiable" under the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$), the 1997 annual NAAQS for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) and establish the lands within the exterior boundary of the reservation as a separate air quality control region.

In October 2009, EPA recently approved the Community's application for treatment in the same manner as a state (TAS) to implement the Clean Air Act program section 107(d) air quality designations.¹ In accordance with the Community's TAS approval, EPA is required to provide the Community the opportunity to submit a designation recommendation under the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$), the 1997 annual (NAAQS) for fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) and also evaluate the Community's designation recommendation separately from surrounding jurisdictions.

¹ See Letter from Laura Yoshii to Governor Rhodes, *Eligibility Determination under 40 C.F.R. Part 49 for a Clean Air Act (CAA) Air Quality Management Plan*, October 21, 2009

Please accept this letter and supporting documentation as the formal designation recommendation of “attainment/unclassifiable” for the Community under the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) and the 1997 annual (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM_{2.5}).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WR Rhodes', with the date '2-9-10' written below it.

William Rhodes, Governor
Gila River Indian Community